

M E M O I R S

OF

MISS ANN SHELDON.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.



AUTHENTIC AND INTERESTING
M E M O I R S
O F
MISS ANN SHELDON;
(NOW MRS. ARCHER:)

A Lady who figured, during several Years, in the highest Line of public Life, and in whose HISTORY will be found, all the Vicissitudes, which so constantly attend on Women of her Description.

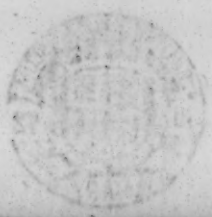
WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

VOLUME THE THIRD.

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M,DCC,XC.



MISS ANNE SHELDON

OF THE ARCADE

A NOVEL IN THREE VOLUMES
BY
MISS ANNE SHELDON
IN TWO VOLUMES
LONDON: PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, 1773.

THE FIRST VOLUME

ENTERED FOR THE AUTHOR'S RIGHT, IN THE CLERK OF THE GREAT SEAL'S OFFICE, THE 15th DAY OF MARCH 1773.



M E M O I R S
O F
A N N S H E L D O N, &c.

C H A P. XXXIV.

*Retire to Chelsea, for the Recovery of my Health
Breach with Mr. Sweedland—Supper at the
Bedford-Arms—Dr. Oliver's friendly Con-
duct—Again arrested, and carried to a Spung-
ing-House—My Conduct there, and on my re-
turn Home.*

AFTER the departure of the Count
de Guignes, I remained at home
for some time, and became so neglect-

ful of myself, that my disorder gained very considerably upon me ; and, as I did not attend to Dr. *Chiddick's* directions, he would have nothing more to do with me: I was obliged, therefore, at last, to send for Sir *Cæsar Hawkins*, who comforted me with the assurance, that I wanted *nursing*, more than *medicine*; and that, if I would be obedient to his prescriptions, my cure was at no great distance. This illness, however, brought me so low in pocket, as well as spirits, that I was obliged to part with my horses—the carriage was reserved for some future emergency.

At this period my friends seemed to have abandoned me: Mr. *Sweedland*, indeed, when he came to town, always used to live at my house,
and

and was by no means backwards in his assistance; but so many of his acquaintance used to call on him, and there was such feasting and carousing with them, that, whatever money he gave me was soon exhausted in house-keeping, while my cellars were entirely emptied of the wine. At length, his resources failed—and I was under the necessity of telling him, that my house could no longer be at the service of him or his companions. In short, I went and took a little ready-furnished house near *Ranelagh*, and locked up all my rooms at home, except the parlour, which I left open, for the maid to usher any gentleman into, who might call to enquire after me. A Miss *Lewis*, who was engaged to play at the *Dublin Theatre* the ensuing season, ac-

cepted my invitation to stay with me while she remained in *England*; and with one servant, and a very few necessaries, we went and took possession of our little *Chelsea* habitation.

As we were one day looking over some trinkets, I found a lady's miniature picture, which Mr. *Sweedland* had given me; and as, at that time, any means of raising a little money were acceptable, I sent it to a Pawnbroker's in *Berwick-street, Spbo*, and received two guineas upon it. A few days after, Mr. *Sweedland* calling in *Delahay-street*, and finding that I had actually kept my word with him, and was gone to *Chelsea*, he paid us a visit at our new abode—when the common salutation was over, his first enquiry

enquiry was rather an unlucky one; for it was nothing more or less than to know what was become of the miniature picture he had left with me?—which, he said, was that of his mother.—I was not, at this time, in a humour to make excuses—I therefore told him at once that his mother was then with a Mr. *Corderoy*, a Pawn-broker in *Berwick-street, Soho*; and that, if he would pay between two and three pounds for her board and lodging, he might have her home again whenever he pleased. This piece of intelligence produced some smart repartees between us—but what could he do but submit?—and after desiring me to give an order to my servant to deliver up his clothes which were at my house in town, lest he should have board and lodging also

to pay for them, he took rather an angry leave.

After this little *fracas*, I remained for some days in quiet and solitude, and amused myself for supplies, by writing to several of my friends for that purpose; and from Mr. *E. Standish* I received a letter with a draft for ten pounds on Mr. *Stacey*, of the *Bedford-Arms*, who hesitated to pay me at first, and did not pay me at last, without receiving a few oblique compliments, which operated upon his *fears*, rather than his *generosity*. This little supply was of no small use; and a few days afterwards I received a message from Doctor *Oliver*, desiring my company to supper that very evening at the *Bedford-Arms*. On my arrival there, I found a large
assembly

assembly of my acquaintance, among whom were Mr. *Charles Dillon*, *Chase Price*, Lord *Corke*, &c. &c. After supper, as I was rather poorly, Doctor *Oliver* desired me to retire to *Thornton's*, and that he would follow immediately, as he had something very particular to communicate to me. Accordingly I took my leave, and, in a short time, Mr. *Oliver* brought me forty pounds, which the company had sent me. I naturally stayed half an hour to thank and chat with him, and then returned home to *Chelsea*.

Tho' I lived in this retired situation, I was not without visitors, and kept a more plentiful table than when I was in town, which gave me an opportunity of giving a great deal of broken

viſual to my poor neighbours, which I had particular pleaſure in diſtributing myſelf ; and, to ſay the truth, I was never more happy than while I lived in this little retired habitation.—The air of the place agreed with me, and I recovered my ſtrength ſo faſt as to be able ſometimes to walk to town.

In one of theſe perambulations, however, I was followed by a ſheriff's officer, whoſe name was *Burton*, who contrived to accompany me into my houſe, and informed me that he had a ſmall piece of paper in his hand, which gave him poſſeſſion of my perſon, till I had diſcharged a ſmall debt due to a Mr. *Rudd*, a *merc*-*er*, amounting to about ſeven pounds. As I had already paid this demand, and had the receipt in the houſe ;
I told

I told my gentleman that I should put in bail for the action and get it settled immediately. He then produced another action against me, which he said I should be able to arrange in a few minutes, if I would accompany him to his house in *Baldwin's Gardens*; so a coach was called, and I had the honour of attending the catch-pole thither.

On my arrival at the spunging house, (and a *spunging* house indeed it was to the unfortunate wretches who were forced thither,) I sent for my mantua-maker who was always my privy counsellor on these occasions. While I was waiting for her appearance I made acquaintance with a poor man who had been for three days the inhabitant of this infernal den, and
at

at the mercy of its blood sucking owners. His debt was but small, and my purse being rather in a state for generosity, I paid the demand against him, and sent the man and his wife, (who sat mourning beside him,) away as happy as unexpected liberty could make them. On such circumstances I now dwell with much satisfaction ; and I have a right to say, that whenever my own folly had led me to such a wretched place, I never quitted it without having liberated some unfortunate person from it.

Trifling and unjust as the demand against me was, I could not settle it that afternoon, and continued to be extremely ill-treated by the extortionate fiend of a landlady, because I would not eat or drink with her.—

I was

I was obliged therefore to stay all night, and on the next morning when my bail arrived, and I found that the other action was all a pretence merely to get me into their house, and make a prey of me, I was determined to play a game in my turn; and being informed by my intelligent mantua-maker that they could not detain me for any expences I might incur under forty shillings, I immediately began to call about me, and the mistress of the house began to favour me with her smiles. In short, a bill for six and thirty shillings was soon made, and I desired Mr. *Burton* to accompany me home, when I would settle it. On our arrival there I told him, that as I had given bail for one debt, I would not give bail for the other; and when he began

gan to remonstrate, I let him know that I had two securities below stairs, and if they did not satisfy him, he should have a third. Accordingly two chairmen, who were in waiting, obeyed my summons, and on my telling these good fellows that I had called them to give bail to that bailiff; “ By *Jafus*, madam, ” said one of them, “ I’ll give bail for his head, “ and if he will not go quietly with “ it on his shoulders, he shall carry “ it in his hand.”—this declaration had the desired effect, for the villain made the best of his way out of the house, and I heard of him no more.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXV.

A Nocturnal Revel.—Watch-house Midnight Scene.—Visit Mr. Kildare's, where I again meet Mr. Sheldon.—A remarkable Anecdote of the late Lord Harrington, with an Account of his extraordinary Amours.—History of a Beautiful young Girl, a Farmer's Daughter, who was seduced from her Parents by the infamous Mrs. White, a well known Procurefs.—Am the fortunate means of restoring her to her Friends.

I now returned to Chelsea, and in a few days received another message from Dr. Oliver, desiring my company to sup with a party at the *Bedford Arms*. I did not hesitate to obey

obey the summons of such a generous friend; and partook of a very elegant entertainment, with music, &c. The company consisted of *Dr. Oliver, Lord Edward Bentinck, Chase Price, Mr. Charles Townly, Sir Richard Symons, Mr. Dillon, &c.* with *Lucy Cooper, Sophia Dubourg, Miss Hudson,* and several others. After we had enjoyed a jovial evening, the party, who were now elevated into high spirits, determined to take a round to the other houses.—As we passed through *Covent Garden*, where there had been a considerable fire a few days before, *Miss Hudson*, who was in a mood of no common vivacity, contrived to mount herself upon an heap of rubbish, and exclaiming with no small noise, that every cock might crow upon its own dunghill, drew the attention

tention of the constable of the night, who was on his patrol; and the attentive officer was determined that her crowings, if she chose to continue them, should be in the *round-house*. The company remonstrated, but without effect; and, finding that she must accompany the peace officer to his nocturnal guard-room, we were resolved to share her fate, and the watch-house was hardly large enough to hold us. However, we were not in an humour to pass the time in dulness or in sorrow,—and *Lord Edward Bentinck* having ordered a quantity of champagne from the Bedford Arms; we regaled ourselves with no little mirth, till it was broad day-light.—The constable and his myrmidons were by no means dissatisfied with our company, and a little

the money being distributed amongst them, we were suffered to quit our durance without molestation, and we all returned to our respective homes.

About a fortnight after this jovial adventure, as I was crossing the Park, I met my old acquaintance Mr. *Kildare* of *King's-Place*, who pressed me very much to call at his house that very evening.—The reasons on which he urged his request were sufficient to ensure my acquiescence, and he accordingly introduced me to Lord *Molyneux*, now Lord *Seston*.—This amiable nobleman discovered a very great partiality to me; and continued to favour me with his attentions till he married the beautiful Lady *Arabella Stanhope*. I now made an accidental acquaintance with Cap-
tain

tain *Hotham*, who joined me in the mall, and was very desirous to accompany me home, but which, as he was a perfect stranger to me, I peremptorily refused, and assigned the true reason for my not complying with his request.—He then desired me to meet him in the evening at Mr. *Kildare's*, where he was no stranger, and to this latter proposal I very readily assented.—As I was rather earlier than the time of my appointment with this gentleman, I had an opportunity of forming an acquaintance with Lord *Derby* and Mr. *T. Foley*, now the peer of that title, which proved very advantageous to me. At length, however, Captain *Hotham* made his appearance, and if it had not been for his regimentals, I should have really thought him to have been an itinerant disciple of
Whitfield

Whitfield or *Westley*. Such a sermon, I believe, was never before preached in a brothel as this moralizing officer delivered to me. In short, after teizing me thus with—I know not what,—I had no other method to get rid of him, but by promising to meet him at the same place on a future day.

As I was going down stairs Mr. *Kildare* invited me to stay and sup with Mrs. *Kildare*, and the ladies; and I had scarce paid my compliments to the company, when who should arrive but Mr. *Ralph Sheldon*, Mr. *Standish*, and several other gentlemen. My partiality for the former was revived the moment I saw him,—and my mortification was extreme, when, after taking a polite notice of me, he retired with another lady.

The

The following evening, Captain *Hotham* had prepared another sermon for the exercise of my patience, but, to my great joy his discourse was interrupted, in the very beginning, by the arrival of Lord *Dumfries*, and Captain *Horneck*. His Lordship was very polite in his attentions to me, and not only invited me to partake of a dinner he was to give the following day at the Horse-Guards, but desired me to bring as many of my female friends as I thought proper. I accepted the invitation, and a very jovial party we were, consisting at least of forty ladies and gentlemen.— After a day and an evening of no common regale, it was proposed by some of the company to take a round among the houses of a certain description in the parish of *St. James's*. For this purpose

purpose some of the party had disguised themselves in borrowed dresses, —and Captain *Horneck* I remember, had put on that of a drummer.— Thus appointed we sallied forth on our midnight, mad-cap expedition.— The history of all we met, of all we saw, and all we said, would fill a volume; and when the part which I am about to relate, is considered as the only relateable circumstance of our ramble, the reader will be, I fear, of opinion, that if a volume were filled with the rest of our adventures, it would be wholly unfit for the perusal of any persons whatever, but such as were described in it.

The visit we made to Mrs. Johnson in Bury-street, offered to our astonishment, a very singular spectacle.
This

This was no less than a large parlour full lined with about thirty of the lowest class of abandoned prostitutes, who were ranged in order; while the late Lord *Harrington*, with all the solemnity of a *Turkish Bashaw*, examined their respective charms, in regular succession, in order to throw his handkerchief to at least a pair of these delightful females.—This ceremony we beheld with a wonder equal to our attention, and had resolution sufficient to withhold our laughter till his lordship had made his choice and retired to an inner room with two such dirty drabs as a chimney-sweeper himself, in all the filth of his employment, would not have deigned to select as objects of his passion. But our sport, such as it was, did not end here, for Captain *Hor-*

neck assuming the language of the dress he wore, began a little verbal engagement with them in their own phraseology, and as they were all well supplied with gin, their spirits were quickly elevated, and disputes of course ensued which being artfully fomented, a battle royal took place, and eight or ten of these creatures were seen, at the same time, sprawling on the floor, and as many noses bleeding. In short, the combat lasted till the field of battle was covered with the fallen, and not a piece of any thing that could be broken remained whole. From thence we retreated to other scenes of similar diversion,—if diversion it may be called,—which I shall not venture to describe.

I now

I now continued to frequent Mr. *Kildare's* house, where the daughters of prostitution were not, as at Mrs. *Godby's*, stripped and purloined of the wages of their miserable occupation, for no impositions were practised there to make wretchedness more wretched. At this time a circumstance accidentally happened, the relation of which relieves my mind from the irksome business of writing so much of my disgrace, and the reader I am sure, will not be displeased to find that there is now and then a page in this work which will do me some credit, and this, I trust, is one of them.

As I was one morning returning home in my chair, I observed a very beautiful young woman without ei-

ther a cloak or an apron, walking by the side of it and speaking to my chairmen, I ordered them to stop in order to know what she wanted ; when in a language far above her appearance, and a strain of apology, for the liberty she had taken with me, that would have suited with almost any rank, she expressed a wish to tell her story. I accordingly ordered her to follow the chair home, and when we were alone in the parlour, I desired her to gratify her wishes in relating to me all she was anxious I should know concerning her.

She then delivered herself to the following purpose :

“ My father, madam, is a very
“ worthy and respectable farmer
“ near

“ near — in the County of —
 “ — with whom about six months
 “ ago I lived in the utmost credit
 “ and comfort; but it was my mis-
 “ fortune to make an acquaintance
 “ with a Mrs. *White*, who came
 “ into our neighbourhood, to pass a
 “ few weeks during the summer sea-
 “ son. As she was a very well be-
 “ haved woman, of a genteel ap-
 “ pearance, and kept her carriage,
 “ it was not possible for persons ig-
 “ norant as we were of what is
 “ called fashionable life, to suspect
 “ her to be what she certainly is, a
 “ procuress of women, and whose
 “ country journies during the sum-
 “ mer is merely to collect victims
 “ for the lust of winter. In short,
 “ Mrs. *White*, who now used to vi-
 “ sit constantly at our house, inflam-

“ ed my mind with such a desire to
“ see London, that altho’ I was on
“ the point of being married to a
“ young, and wealthy farmer of
“ the same neighbourhood, I con-
“ sented to accompany her for a fort-
“ night, if she could procure my
“ father’s consent; which, with
“ some difficulty, she contrived to
“ effect.

“ The consequence of this jour-
“ ney in which I expected to enjoy
“ so much pleasure, and to acquire
“ such great improvement, was, with
“ the assistance of Mrs. *White*, my
“ being seduced by Lord *Deloraine*,
“ who supported me about five
“ weeks, and then left me. An
“ accidental acquaintance with Mr.
“ *Kildare* of *King’s-Place*, made me
after-

“ afterwards a frequenter of his
 “ house, from whence I was in-
 “ veigled by a Mrs. *Johnston*, who
 “ kept me for some time at her
 “ house, from whence I was per-
 “ suaded by her partner, Mrs. *But-*
 “ *ler*, to go to *Dublin*, where I was
 “ told that fortune would instantly
 “ take me into her grace and favour;
 “ but all I got there was the dis-
 “ ease I now bear about me,—and no
 “ sooner did the infamous woman,
 “ with whom I lived, perceive my
 “ situation, than she removed me
 “ to one of the lowest brothels in
 “ *Smock-Alley*, and there left me.

“ In this state of distress, I ap-
 “ plied to a few gentlemen whom I
 “ had seen at Mrs. *Butler*’s, and
 “ having collected about three gui-

“ neas, I immediately took a place
“ in the packet and returned to Eng-
“ land. After encountering very
“ great distress, I arrived in Lon-
“ don, and as I conducted myself,
“ I believe, very much to Mr. *Kil-*
“ *dare*’s satisfaction, while I remain-
“ ed in his house, I am disposed to
“ hope that, assisted by your applica-
“ tion, he would again receive me,
“ get me restored to my health, and
“ finally afford me an opportunity
“ of restoring myself to my family.”

Here this poor girl ended her history ; and on my asking her if she thought her father would ever acknowledge her—she said, that she had luckily, and almost miraculously received a letter from him the day before, by which it appeared that he

was

was totally ignorant of her situation, and very anxious about her return to him. She then told me her real name, and, after I ordered her to be well clothed with some of my own apparel, and a comfortable meal to be given her, I set off to Mr. *Kildare's* to hear whether his account tallied with that which had just been delivered to me. This I found to be the case in every particular.—I therefore lost no time to do the poor woman good, and calling the next day on Sir *Cæsar Hawkins*, told him the little melancholy history which I have just related. “Let her come to me,”—said this humane practitioner,—
 “let her come to me; my future
 “care shall cost her nothing, nor
 “shall my past attendance to you,
 “be any burthen upon you, for the
 “goodness you have manifested to

“ this unfortunate creature.” Under his direction she was in a very short time restored to perfect health ; and having made a collection for her among my friends, of about *twenty guineas*, I sent her home to her father. Very soon after, she informed me by a letter written in the most grateful terms, that she had been received at home with the greatest kindness, that her misfortunes were ended, and that her former lover was very shortly to be her husband. —In the sorrows, wants and other calamities of my foolish and abandoned life, I have reflected on this act of it,—and received comfort.

C H A P. XXXVI.

Retire again to Chelsea.—Mr. Walsingham renews his visits.—Form an acquaintance with Sir F. Molyneux, at Kildare's—Adventure in Crown Court Westminster.—Curious Anecdote of General Frazer.—Another Masquerade.—Meet with a Mr. Carr of Northumberland.—My Connexion with him, &c.

I Now retired again to my little Chelsea Cottage, where I received a very serious visit from Mr. Walsingham; who desired some account of my proceedings.—I told him that I had put down my carriage, which made him very happy. I then in-

formed him I was on the point of selling my chair, which was favoured also with his approbation. I next proceeded to give him an account of my mode of life at Chelsea, which, as far as I let him know of it, delighted the gentleman extremely ; and, he offered, notwithstanding the visit I had occasioned him to make to the Earl of *Shelburne* in *Wiltshire*, if I would remain where I was, and give up my house in town, to continue his friendship to me in the most ample manner. But as I had now got into a new and profitable haunt, it did not suit me to comply with his proposition, which served as a ballance to his former account of satisfaction, for it made him, as he said, very unhappy. However, he did not leave me till the next morning ; and
then

then he returned, as I understood, to complete his visit, and perhaps his recovery at Lord *Shelburne's* country seat.

My visits in town were now chiefly to Mr. *Kildare's*, and the principal friend whom I met there was Sir *Francis Molyneux*, of whom it becomes me to say every thing that is handsome and applausive. As for my town house, I had almost deserted it, for though it got me a great deal of money, it spent all I got ; and my dinners and suppers, which I gave to my visitors, very frequently cost me more than I received from them : so that I found my little cottage not only a source of health and satisfaction, but of œconomy also.

It

It was not, however, to be supposed that I could keep long from town ; and it would not be an impropriety in me to say, that I lived in retirement, if I remained at my country-house only three days out of the seven.

In one of my town visits, having occasion to call at my mantua-maker's, I found a lady with her whose name was *Pearse*, who asked me if I did not recollect her ; and, on being answered in the negative, she told me that she was a prisoner in the spunging-house from which I relieved Miss *Laurence* : that she was taken from thence to the *Marshalsea* prison in the Borough, where she remained for some time, till a Mr. *Pickering*, who was a judge in that court, taking a
fancy

fancy to her, maintained her during her stay there, and afterwards paid her debt. Her original fortune, she said, was five hundred pounds, with a couple of houses, which had been all spent on a man for whom she had conceived an unfortunate passion, and who, the moment she was arrested, had totally deserted her. At this time she lived with a Mrs. *Drybutter*, who went by the name of *Haymer*, in a little house in *Crown Court Westminster*, where she invited me to take tea with her any leisure afternoon.

My curiosity led me to accept of this invitation, where I saw this Mrs. *Haymer*, with a large basket full of rags, employed in making up rag dolls,
at

at which work she told me that she could earn a guinea a week; but this was not her sole occupation, as she had the liberty of selling fruit in the lobby of the House of Commons; and, as she was acquainted with the members, she often recommended women to them; and immediately proposed to introduce me to a gentleman who would treat me with great generosity.—As I was never out of my way, and was rather disposed to snatch at any thing that came unawares, I acceded to her proposal, and was the next morning conducted by her daughter, a girl of about sixteen, to General *Frazer's* house in *Downing-street, Westminster*. On our arrival there I was ushered up stairs; on the top of which I saw a tall, hungry looking old gentleman, whose appearance

ance was by no means calculated to give me a very favourable opinion of his gallantry. He handed me through several rooms till at last we came to a kind of library in which there was a sofa. On my sitting down,—well Miss, said the old man, you seem to look rather queer this morning—you have not the air of being in a good humour—but in order to dissipate it, he sat down by me and gave me a paper, in which five guineas were as carefully wrapped as if they were never to see the daylight.—The General then began to make some approaches which, however military, did not meet with any encouragement from me; so that he began to remonstrate on the money he had given me, and for what purpose,—when taking out my purse which was at that time
well

well lined, I shook it at him with an assurance that five guineas were of no consequence to me, and that in return for them I would take myself away, and send him, a companion, better formed for his amusement than I could be, a basket of the *rag dolls* made by the woman who had done me the honour of introducing me; indeed they were better calculated for him to pull about than a fine woman. One of the General's *Aid du Camps* appeared on my ringing the bell, and I soon found myself in the coach which brought me thither.

My young companion, the worthy Mrs. *Haymer*'s daughter, immediately discovered her knowledge of the trade, by asking me concerning my gains; informing me of the pound-

poundage her mother usually received, and hinting at a little premium she expected for herself. I did not then pretend to understand the miserable doctrine of poundage, but I gave the girl two guineas for her mother and sent her home. It was no wonder indeed, that this unhappy young woman so well understood the horrid imposition which the procurers impose on the prostitute, as I found, from the information of Mrs. *Pearse*, that she was obliged to pay it to her own mother, or the door was shut against her. That unnatural woman little cared who, or what she sacrificed, so that grist came to her mill:—and I am told that this business, with a little fruit selling, at no great distance from *Westminster Bridge*,

Bridge, still continues to be her honourable occupation.

Lord *Bateman* being now returned to town, and never calling on me, was a circumstance which greatly mortified me: and on my not receiving an answer to a letter which I wrote to him, my mortification was not a little encreased. At a masquerade which was shortly afterwards at Carlisle-house, I had almost certain hopes of seeing him, but I was again disappointed. However, tho' I missed of one bird, I found another, who was well plumed, and by no means sparing of his feathers.—This gentleman was a Mr. *Carr*, of *Northumberland*, in the mercantile line, and extremely rich. He never ceased following me through the rooms, till
at

at length an acquaintance was formed, and tho' I refused his company that evening—for still I thought Lord *Bateman* might peep in upon the diversion—I consented to a visit from him the next morning.

The gentleman came to his appointment, and took me to dine with him at the *Shakespeare*, with a party ; and, hearing me praise the Madeira, he sent twelve dozen of that and other wines, the following day, to my house. He now repeated his visits frequently, and behaved in a very generous manner. His carriage was at my command, whenever I wanted it ; and, I believe, if my capricious temper would have permitted it, there was nothing he would not have done to conciliate my regard ;
but,

but, such was my folly, and contemptible vanity, that I really despised this gentleman, with all his wealth and generosity, because he was concerned in trade.

Having one day engaged Mr. *Shuter*, the comedian, to dine with him, he desired me to be of the party, at the *King's Arms*, in *Bond-street*; and as we were going in his carriage to the place of destination, a violent quarrel ensued between me and my lover, to the no small amusement of Mr. *Shuter*; who, when we by turns applied to him for his opinion, returned answers so full of humour and pleasantry, as would have quelled, at once, a more irascible spirit than mine: indeed, I was so violent

violent and faucy on the occasion, that Mr. *Carr* frequently ordered me to take myself into an hackney coach, and rid him of so much impertinence—but I refused to change my position; and we continued playing at the game of high words, 'till a good dinner, and the facetious conversation of our companion, brought us both into some sort of tolerable temper. Indeed, the afternoon turned out a very merry one; and in the evening, Mr. *Carr* conducted me home; when some trifle or other renewed our quarrel, which, at length, got to such an height, that I retorted the compliment upon him; and as he desired me, a few hours before, to quit his carriage, I now ordered him, in very explicit terms, to get out of

my house. He did not hesitate to obey my commands—and thus ended a very short-lived, profitable, but unpleasant connection.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXVII.

*My Acquaintance with Mr. Sweedland renewed—
Jaunt to Northampton with Mr. Brudenell and
Mr. Manners, who were ordered to join their
Regiment—Proceed with them to Market Har-
borough; but, they being ordered to Glasgow, I
return to Town, with a Promise to follow them.
—Change my Resolution, and endeavour to
bring about a Reconciliation with Lord Bate-
man—Adventures at Barrow's Hedges, with
Capt. Madden, &c.*

I WAS now again favoured with an
embassy from Mr. *Sweedland*, with
propofals to renew his alliance with
me; and the day following he paid
me a visit, in order to confirm them.

In answer to the abundant professions which he made of life and fortune—and all that—I told him, in very plain terms, that, if he returned to me, a new mode of conduct must be adopted by him. I represented to his consideration, the folly of my suffering any one to live with me, who cost me as much, if not more, than I received from him; and I brought back to his recollection, the power he had been used to assume in my house, and the continual expence which arose from its being constantly filled with his acquaintance—A treaty, however, was concluded between us, on the sole condition, that he was to abandon his former mode of proceeding. As I wanted, at this time, to quit my house at *Chelsea*, and to discharge a
few

few other little pressing demands, he indulged me with a draft for fifty pounds on Mr. *Child*, the Banker—but this act of generosity was of little consequence; for our treaty, like those of greater powers, was not regarded; and my house, and its mistress, were subject to the same inconveniences, which I had before suffered, and against which I had so strongly remonstrated: but I was forced to submit, for the moment, and waited, with impatience, for some opportunity to extricate myself from my present dilemma; and, thanks to Mr. *Brudenell* and Mr. *Manners*, such an opportunity soon occurred.

One afternoon, these gentlemen called upon me, and proposed my

accompanying them immediately to *Northampton*, where they were going to join their regiment. At the time they came, I was under the hands of the *friseur*; and Mr. *Brudenell*, with his usual crazy spirit, positively declared, that I should go with them as I was, with one side of my head full dressed, and the other in complete disorder — nay, they would scarce give me time to throw a few clothes into a trunk; I insisted, however, upon that indulgence, though I was as well pleased as themselves to give Mr. *Sweedland* the slip. So away we went to St. *James's-street*, where a post-chaise and four was ready to receive us. By this time the evening was far advanced; and, to preserve us from being robbed, Mr. *Brudenell* bought a blunderbuss, and gave it to his

his servant, who was a *Swiss*, and could speak but very little *English*, with orders to shoot the first man who should attempt to stop us.—This direction, however, had very nearly proved fatal; for being stopped by a Toll-gatherer, at a Turnpike, the faithful domestic presented the blunderbuss, and would have prevented the poor man from ever stopping another carriage, if he had not been prevented by some drovers, who were, at that moment, very fortunately on the spot, settling the account for the passage of their cattle.—This circumstance, however, brought on a dispute; and as the *Madeira* in the chaise had elevated my friends beyond the spirit of decorum and prudence, a very serious bustle took place; and the Turnpike-man being joined by

some travelling Farmers, we were fairly discomfited—and, after sustaining a very severe attack of mud and dirt, were driven, in a very filthy condition, from the field of battle.

On our arrival at *Dunstable*, Mr. *Brudenell* begun, as usual, to play every kind of trick, which his unlucky fancy could suggest. Here he put on a bears-skin; and, after crawling about in this character, to the astonishment of every one in the house, he gave notice that he should exhibit a *magic lantern*; and this raree show he displayed with so much noise, &c. &c. that the people of the inn were, I believe, heartily glad when we bid them adieu. The next day we arrived at *Northampton*, where we joined the troop, which was almost
im-

immediately ordered for *Market Harbour*, to which place I had the honour of attending my unlucky soldiers. Here I remained for some days; when one of them, Mr. *Bru-denell*, conducted me to an hill, in the neighbourhood of the place, in order to shew me the country—and, after I had waded through the dirt to the top of it, under a pretence of returning to the town to fetch a chaise, he left me to enjoy the prospect for at least five hours—for, in attempting to descend from this delightful eminence, I lost one of my shoes in the mud; and was, therefore, obliged to wait, 'till he thought the joke had lasted long enough—when he and his party came, and restored me to the comfort of a good fire, and other good things.

While we were enjoying ourselves at *Market Harborough*, an order came for the regiment to proceed—no farther than *Glasgow*; and I was made to promise, that I would follow my friends into *Scotland*, after I had been to arrange my affairs in *London*. Mr. *Brudenell* gave me an hundred guineas to pay my expences, and I set out for *London*, without the least intention of directing my steps towards the North. I travelled in the stage-coach for safety, and arrived in town so very indifferent, from the morning I spent on the hill, that I was obliged to confine and nurse myself for several days after my arrival.

The moment I was sufficiently re-established to venture abroad, I set about getting the sight of Lord *Bateman*—

man—and, in order to be secure in attaining it, I called upon a lady of my acquaintance, and persuaded her to accompany me to *Barrows Hedges*, where I thought myself certain of meeting his Lordship; but the hounds did not go out the day of our arrival: so that we determined to wait 'till the next hunt, when he was expected, as some of his people were there already.

Some sporting gentlemen being at the inn, desired the favour of our company.—They were Capt. *Madden*, of the Guards, Capt. *Crew*, and a Mr. *Hart*, who treated us with the utmost politeness. Lord *Bateman* had not the same disposition; for, whether it was on my account, or for any other reason, I could not tell,

but he never came near the place for six weeks, but sent orders to his yeomen to conduct the hunt without him—I therefore consoled myself with Captain *Madden*, who possessed the most certain means of consolation, as he had lately received a legacy of seven thousand pounds. He was a generous character—and, finding myself very comfortable, I agreed to remain with him, during the whole hunting season—nor were we here without our gambols, which consisted chiefly in dressing ourselves like beggars, and perambulating the country, at different times, in as great a change of appearance, as such ragged characters would allow. Indeed, we acted our parts so well, that, at *Carshalton*, we were driven out of the place by the Parish Officers, as some
of

of us threatened a very speedy lying-in, and narrowly escaped the Beadle's lash.

As I was now informed that Lord *Bateman* would not come down to *Barrow's Hedges*, while I was there, I was determined to play him a trick; and Captain *Madden* being obliged to go to town, to mount guard, I bribed the Chambermaid to tell Lord *Bateman's* servants, that I was gone to town with him—and, as I kept myself a close prisoner to my bed-chamber, the story was soon conveyed to his Lordship, and the very next morning he arrived. As he was getting out of his chaise, I threw up the window, and, to his great surprise, asked him, If he was come at last?—“ Yes,” answered his Lordship,—

“ here I am—and extremely surprised to see you.” He then gave me a very polite invitation to breakfast with him, which I accepted; and then ordered a chaise for me to go and see the deer turned out. When I had viewed this very animating scene, I returned to the house, and was soon followed by several gentlemen, who did not wish to see any more of the chace, than myself.—Among these were Mr. *Astley*, of *Pall-Mall*, Mr. *Farrer*, my good friend Mr. *Sweedland*, with Mr. *Arthur*, and Mr. *Kit Blake*. They ordered dinner, before Lord *Bateman* and his company returned, and invited me to dine with them—When it was ready, we sat down to table: and I expected every moment that the noble Lord and his company would
make

make their appearance; but I soon found, to my very great disappointment, that they had been returned some time, and were at dinner in another room. I now enquired, if any message had been sent to me?—and, being answered in the negative, I determined to make my appearance among them, whether I was invited or not—when, to my great surprise, I found the room door fastened against me, and was told, that it was by my Lord's order. I made no observation upon this circumstance, but went directly into the garden; and lifting up one of the sashes, I contrived to step into the parlour, where his Lordship, and his Lordship's good company were assembled—and, without any ceremony, ordered the servant to bring me a chair, and took my place
among

among them. The gentlemen were very officious in their attentions to me; and even the noble Lord, at last, deigned to say, that he thought I had dined, or he should otherwise have desired my company.

After a certain time, the party dropped off, one after another, 'till Lord *Bateman* and myself were left alone. He then asked me, who the fellow was that I lived with there? —when I told him, he was a gentleman, as good as himself, and that they both had one master. He then answered, rather pettishly, that he had no master, nor would have any; but I insisted, that an Officer of his Majesty's Guards, and the Master of his Majesty's buck-hounds, were both servants to the King. This little spar-

sparring grew, by degrees, into a more animated stile of altercation—'till, at length, such very high words ensued, that the offended nobleman ordered his chaise, and set off for *London*—leaving me in no common state of mortification, at his cold and ungenerous treatment, after the many sacrifices I had made to him, and the many promises he had made to me.

The next day Captain *Madden* returned, and I found that the master of the house had been waiting for him on the road, merely to inform him that I had the day before, been upwards of an hour alone with Lord *Bateman*. This little mischievous tale had its effect, and when my friend came into the house, I immediately

diately perceived that he was no longer a friend to me.—His conduct was totally altered, and from the most agreeable ease and freedom, it was now changed to the most unpleasant formality and reserve. In short, he would hardly take any notice of me, refused to help me at table, and shewed every tranquil mark of the highest disapprobation. After repeated enquiries concerning the reason of his behaviour, he deigned to tell me at last, that he was no stranger to my manœuvre with Lord *Bateman*, and that I was perfectly welcome to follow him to town.—I replied that I had no occasion to follow him or any one, as I had an house of my own, and that I should immediately order a chaise and return to it.—He said there was no chaise to be had
that

that night; but he would take care that one should be ordered at my own time, the following morning. I now quitted the room, and retired to my chamber, where I drank my tea, and sat the whole evening by myself, being convinced that he only sought this circumstance of my late conversation with Lord *Bateman*, as an excuse to break his connection with me. About eleven o'clock I ordered the maid to warm my bed, when I was informed that Captain *Madden* had taken possession of another chamber. This contemptuous conduct did not quite suit with my high spirit, I therefore determined to pay him a visit in his new apartment, and on finding the door locked against me, I made such an use of my hands and feet, as soon gained me a forcible admittance.

mittance. He immediately rose and went into another room, but like his evil genius I followed from one chamber to another, till he rang for his servant, and ordered his horses to be immediately saddled.—I then returned into my own room, and reposed myself on the bed for a few hours. On my rising to breakfast the chambermaid delivered me a note from Mr. *Madden*, in which he informed me that a chaise was ready to attend my orders, and that he had enclosed a bank bill for ten pounds to discharge the expences of it. I therefore, packed up my cloaths and bidding adieu to *Barrow's Hedges*, set off for London.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXXVIII.

A Fresh pursuit after me by Bailiffs.—Escape in Boy's Cloaths to Barrow's Hedges.—Am obliged to continue my Disguise there, and have a New Suit made for the Purpose.—Various Incidents arise in Consequence of it.—Am again extricated from all my Difficulties, and form a Connexion with Baron de Bertie, a Swedish Nobleman, &c

DURING my stay with Captain Madden at Barrow's Hedges, I had frequent occasion to go to town for cloaths and other little matters, but as I never stayed there but for a very few hours at a time, I kept my servants at board wages.—During
my

my country residence, my creditors were the principal visitors at my door, and one of them had bribed a woman servant, who was rather in my confidence, to give him information whenever I paid an occasional visit to my town habitation.—Accordingly, she contrived, on one of these occasions, to conduct them to my mantua-makers; where I happened to be, of which, however, an apprentice boy in the house gave me very friendly notice. This was by no means a pleasant circumstance at any time, but particularly at the present moment, when a post-chaise was in waiting, near *Westminster Bridge*, to take me back to *Barrow's Hedges*. The harpies in pursuit of me watched too narrowly for me to escape without employing some stratagem ;

tagem ; I accordingly dressed myself in a suit of cloaths belonging to the apprentice boy, and tying my own in a bundle, which I carried in my hand ; the watchful eyes of the caitiff catchpoles, were deceived, and while they were making enquiries about me, with Mr. *Rider*, my creditor, at their head, I passed through them without suspicion ; and, making the best of my way to a Pawnbroker's in *Bridge-street*, whose shop had two doors, I passed in at one of them, and so out of the other, in order to throw my blood-hounds off their scent, in case they should follow me. Nor had I acted with an improper precaution, for I had scarce got into the chaise and told the postillions my dilemma, when the Bailiffs came running down the street ;

I

—but

but crack went the whips, and off we sprung, to my no small joy and happy deliverance. At the first convenient place I stopped to change my boys apparel for my own dress; and arrived safe at my destination, where I did not fail to reward my conductors as they well deserved.

I informed Captain *Madden* of the circumstance of my escape, which, he said pleased him in one sense, but gave him pain in another; for that he had won a considerable bet on my returning so soon; at the same time, it was by no means a pleasant idea, that I should be in a continual state of apprehension; and in order to cure me of it, he desired me to endeavour to make a composition with my just creditors, and he would pay
the

the money. In the mean time, in case I should be pursued he ordered his taylor to make me a smart suit of cloaths, and I now no longer appeared as a flaunting girl, but as an elegant and well dressed macaroni. But all application to my creditors proved in vain ; for as they were persuaded my friends would not suffer me to go to goal, they would not abate a single farthing of their demands. On this principle they were determined to get hold of me, and having discovered from whence the chaise came, which had borne me away from their clutches ; they sent down their myrmidons to *Barrow's Hedges*, in order to entrap me, but my disguise prevented their knowing me ; and so completely did it shroud
me

me from their recollection, that I was not afraid to stand at the door of the inn, when they were prowling about before it.

These circumstances were therefore, more than sufficient, when I finally left the place to make me very cautious on my arrival in town ; and, in order to keep clear of danger I went and remained at my mantua-maker's till Sunday morning, when I returned home. Among my other visitors, my father had been more than once at my door, and had left a letter, in which he desired to see me. I immediately ordered a coach, and after having given orders to the other servants, if the woman, who had already betrayed me, went out, to watch where she went ; I proceeded

ceeded to call on my father, whom I found very much dejected from some losses which he had recently sustained; to see him in that situation, gave me infinite pain; and I felt that to relieve him would be the first of pleasures; the money therefore, which I had by me, and was enough to have discharged all my debts, I gave into his reluctant hand, and turned my thoughts to other means of dis-encumbering myself of the demands against me.

As I had been so much out of town for some time past, I thought it right to examine a little how matters stood in my house; and on looking it over, I observed that a great many things were missing; such as linen, some of my silver trinkets, &c.

the amount of about an hundred pounds—all of which, after many threats, and no little trouble, I found in the trunk of the servant, who had been a constant spy upon my actions, and given the information to my creditors, which I have already described. I need not add, that she was immediately discharged; and I felt no small addition to my comfort, when this domestic enemy was removed from me.

But I thought the most effectual way to keep myself out of the power of enemies, was to pay my debts; and as they did not amount to more than two hundred pounds, I sent for Mr. *Squires*, a pawnbroker, to look at my jewels and laces; which he accordingly did, and immediately advanced

advanced upon a part of them the sum I wanted. The attorney was then employed to arrange the business with my creditors; which being soon completed, I was again in the enjoyment of that unapprehensive situation, which is more pleasant than all the jewels and laces in the world.

The first event which took place after this little arrangement, was a very singular and unaccountable connexion with a *Swedish* nobleman, who went by the title of *Baron Deberti*. My acquaintance with this amiable person commenced, where many others had originated, in the street; for, as I was proceeding through *Whitehall*, on a little errand to my milliner, he passed me in his

D 2

chair—

chair—when, ordering his chairmen to set him down, he immediately accosted me, and begged leave to attend me home, to which I had not the least objection. He then told me, in very good English, who he was, and that he lived in *Suffolk-street*, where he saw so much company, that he should rather prefer visiting me at my own house, than receiving me at his; and therefore begged permission to dine with me the next day, and he would order an elegant dinner from an adjoining tavern. This visit was but short, and was interrupted by a Mr. *Mow*, a surgeon to one of the regiments of Guards, who brought a penitential message from Captain *Madden*, desiring permission to renew his visits to me; and that very evening he himself came;—but
notwith-

notwithstanding all his apologies, and and he offered plenty of them, he was not received with any great degree of cordiality—his late treatment was not worn off my recollection, and I was not in that state of distress which rendered it necessary for me to practise any unpleasant submissions.

The next day *Baron Deberti* came to dinner, and a very pleasant afternoon we passed. Never had I been so flattered before—and so many proposals were made, and left to my choice, as to the manner in which I would arrange my living with him, that I was at a loss which to accept. However, it was at length agreed, that he should take an apartment for me at Mrs. *Corregi's*, in *Suffolk-street*, keep me a carriage, pay all my expences,

and allow me forty guineas a month. The next day I received a letter from him to inform me that my apartments were ready to receive me, and that he had enclosed me the first monthly payment in two bank notes to that amount.

As there was something of a very singular appearance in this business, I desired Miss *O'Neal*, a very sensible and accomplished woman, who happened to call upon me at this moment, to accompany me in my first visit to my Swedish friend. We accordingly went, and a very brilliant company there was, but consisting entirely of foreigners. The Baron was in the highest spirits; sometimes he danced about the room, and at others played upon his guitar,
and

and accompanied the instrument with his voice. After an evening of much glitter, and as great a confusion of languages as ever took place at the Tower of Babel, the company separated, Miss *O'Neal* returned home, and I stayed to occupy one side of the Baron's large bed, without knowing, till I awoke in the morning, that any one occupied the other; when I beheld the Baron, or rather his head, decorated with all the luxury of lace and ribbon.

Miss *O'Neal* came to me at breakfast, which was no sooner over, than there was such a succession of visitors to the Baron, that I ordered the carriage, and took my friend, on a shopping ramble, through different

parts of the town. As the gentleman who took this lady from her friends was in the country, she was almost entirely with me; and if having a coach at our command, partaking of a most elegant table, and seeing the best company, could have made us happy, we had every reason to be so. But still I remained at a loss as to the sex of my protector;—and one day when he was from home, Miss *O'Neal* and myself examined his wardrobe, expecting to find some remnants of female dress, which might lead us to determine on the business; but we found no clue to the mystery, and were obliged to remain contented with our ignorance. I was then, and am still of opinion, that the Baron *Deberti* was a female spy, in the exterior of a man; or at
best

best, that his errand to this country was for some political consideration; for not a day passed but some foreign minister was in consultation with him; and his levee was constantly crowded with foreigners of every denomination.

After having been with the Baron for about a week, he proposed taking me to Bath—but with all his effeminacy and insignificance, there was something about him, generous as he was to me, which made me fearful of trusting myself in the country with him. I certainly had no reason to complain of him, as he spared no expence in gratifying my wishes, as far as related to dress, and the associated objects of female vanity.

C H A P. XXXIX.

Accidentally meet Mr. Walsingham again, who behaves in an affectionate Manner—History of Miss O'Neal—Mr. Walsingham plays a Trick upon Baron Debertie—The Distress of the Baron—Miss Metham and Major Atkinson introduced to me—Anecdote of Miss Metham and a Miniature Painter.

I HAD not seen Mr. *Walsingham* for some time, when, as Miss *O'Neal* and myself were going to the Park, we accidentally met him, and he, with great good humour, got into the coach ; and after having desired to know what the *Devil of Clubs*, which

which was the name he sometimes gave me, had been doing for some time past, I answered him with the history of my little Baron. In short, to my great satisfaction, for I really had an affection for him, we accommodated our little disputes, and he promised, instead of going to his apartments at Windsor, as he had intended, to pass the evening with me at my own house.

After a conversation, which was very affectionate on his part, we set him down at *Christie's* auction room, and went from thence to my *Delahay-street* residence: as we were proceeding thither, Miss *O'Neal* told me her immediate situation, of which I was then in a great measure ignorant.—

"She had been seduced," she said,

“ from her home, which was a very
“ comfortable one, as her father was
“ a glover in great business near
“ *College-green, Dublin*, by a Mr.
“ *Morris*, who had now deserted her,
“ without leaving her any means of
“ support ; and that she had for some
“ time past lived upon what her
“ clothes had produced. On her arrival
“ in town with her lover, he took
“ chambers in the *Temple*, where
“ they lived for some time, when he
“ went into the country, and soon
“ after wrote to inform her, that she
“ was now her own mistress ; and recommended
“ her to do the best she
“ could for herself, as he should see
“ her no more. At the same time
“ he desired her to give up the key
“ of his chambers to a gentleman
“ whom he should order to call for

“ the purpose.” As, in all the freaks and follies of my character, I was ever willing to relieve distress, I offered her the privilege, such as it was, of being with me, till she could form some settlement for herself—and, impressed with a very becoming gratitude for the kindness I manifested to her, she took her leave of me till the following day.

In the evening my Baron paid me a visit, where he was ushered up, in all due form, into the drawing-room; and I had scarce paid him the necessary compliments, when Mr. *Walsingham* arrived. Knowing, as I well did, his rap at the door, I locked the Baron into the room where he was, for fear Mr. *Walsingham* and he should meet, and went down to receive my
second

second guest; who, hearing somebody in the room over head, I was obliged to tell him that the *Baron* was there as fast as lock and key could make him. At this moment Mr. *Walsingham* snatched the key from my hand, and insisted upon our immediately going to bed. I remonstrated, but in vain; for he was determined, he said, that the *Baron* should amuse himself where he was till the morning. We had not, however, been long in bed, before the prisoner began to ring the bell, stamp with his feet on the floor, and thump the door in order to obtain his liberty; but Mr. *Walsingham* was resolute in enjoying his joke---and it was at least three hours that the poor little *Swede* was suffered to continue in his embarrassment, before I could

get the key, and send a servant to give him his release. He was ordered to tell him that I was gone to his lodgings; and as his chair had waited all this time, he returned home as fast as his bearers could carry him. However, to my great surprise, who should appear in about an hour at my door but the *Baron*, who, not finding me at his house, as he expected, was returned to know what was become of me. But my servant informed him from the window, that I had given orders to admit no one whatever; so that he was obliged to make the best of his way home again, with all his dissatisfactions about him.

In the morning Mr. *Walsingham* set off for *Windsor*, and desired, if I should

should want any thing, to address myself by letter to him at that place. He had not been gone many minutes, when the *Baron's* servant arrived, to know if I was at home; and took an opportunity to tell my maid, that his master, instead of going to bed, had been walking about his chamber like a madman, sometimes crying like a child, and at other times tearing his hair, and exhibiting all the marks of the deepest distress. Nor was it long before he came himself, in a state of mind that justified his servant's description of him. He proposed my going with him immediately to *Bath*; but such a jaunt did not at that time suit my fancy, however, I accompanied him to his house to dinner, and stayed there several days. But though he was generous
to

to a degree, and conducted himself towards me with a respect which bordered on adoration, I was determined to escape from the connection; and as Mr. *Walsingham* was now returned to me, I had an object in which my heart, all volatile as it had been, was sincerely interested, and with whom I experienced a satisfaction very different from that which I enjoyed with my mysterious foreigner. My friend Miss *O'Neal*, having resolved not to continue the way of life she had lately followed, and expressing a wish to go into service, I thought it would counteract her wishes to remain with me any longer, and therefore hired a private lodging for her till I could procure her some sort of establishment; and, in about three months, with the assistance

sistance of Mr. *Jenkins* of the register-office, *Charing-cross*, was hired as *femme de chambre* to the lady of a field-officer, who was on the point of sailing for *America*.

As Mr. *Walsingham* remained at *Windsor*, and as I was not formed to support a melancholy state of widowhood, I was not a little pleased with Captain *Scawen*, of the guards, for introducing me to his cousin Mr. *James Scawen*. This gentleman instantly became my very good friend; and, while I lived with him, experienced the most generous behaviour on his part, and possessed every pleasure and indulgence of life.

Miss *Winckles*, who was a never-failing source of new acquaintance,
at

at this time introduced me to a young lady, who had assumed the name of *Sally Metham*, and was then connected with a Major *Atkinson*, whom I knew very well. In our situation of life, friendships, as well as enmities, are soon made, and we became extremely intimate, so as for some time to be almost inseparable. This young lady had been well educated, and spoke several languages; her mother was a midwife, and, as she attended many persons in high life, had learned, like some of them, to be very indifferent to any thing but pecuniary advantage; she had, therefore, actually sold her daughter to the lust of a man of fortune, and afterwards compelled her to marry an attorney's clerk, whose ill treatment added to her misfortunes. The kindness of
Major

Major *Atkinson* in some degree alleviated the rigour of her situation, and I found her, in every respect, so pleasing and accomplished, that I desired her to come and reside for some time at my house, where she might see her friend with the same convenience as if it were her own. Major *Atkinson* continued his attention, which, though much intermixed with what is called fun and pleantry, were kind ones to her;—and I think nothing happened during the first few days of her visit worth relating, unless the impertinence of a miniature painter may be considered as a circumstance that ought not to be passed over by me. If the artist had been only a coxcomb, he might have been forgiven—if he had been humorous, he might have made us
laugh

laugh even at ourselves ;—but he was
 sarcastic and ill-natured ; and, as he
 knew that he should be paid for his
 daub, he might have been content
 with imposition, without daring to
 be impertinent. But to come to my
 story ; Miss *Metham* was sitting for
 her picture to this limner in little,
 and, during the ceremony, one or
 two reptiles, that are sometimes to
 be found in the hair of the most su-
 perior rank and the fairest beauty,
 happened to make an excursion upon
 her forehead ;—when the painter,
 thinking himself a wit, in a tone of
 much sarcasm, asked Miss *Metham* if
 he was to introduce the company
 above her eye-brows into the picture ?
 At this extraordinary question, she
 put her hand to her forehead, and
 soon perceived the cause of Mr. Car-
 mine's

mine's pleasantry; to which, however, she made no answer, but desired me to quit the room; and, leaving a guinea with the servant to pay her master for the little he had done, we left him to the consolation of his own contemptible impertinence.

CHAP. XL.

Account of a Play at Wandsworth, under the Direction of the celebrated Tom Weston—Some humorous Circumstances attending it—Major Atkinson, Major Vaughan, &c. left in Pledge, with their borrowed Clothes, for the Expences of a good Supper I bestowed on the Performers—Major Atkinson, in revenge, carries my Parrot to the Pawnbroker's, where Captain Sweedland's Gold Repeater soon found its Way.

A Few days after the last mentioned little adventure, my mantua-maker, who, as I have already observed in a former part of this work, had been occasionally on the stage, called with Mr. *Weston* the actor, to inform me, that they intended
to

to perform in a play at *Wandsworth*, and requested me to make a party for their benefit. At the same time Major *Tucker*, Major *Vaughan*, Major *Atkinson*, Colonel *Ogilvie*, Captain *Wallace*, now Sir *James Wallace*, happened to be at my house, and all agreed to attend the performance. When we arrived at *Wandsworth*, we found the comedians very perfect in their parts, but so very imperfect in their wardrobe, that Miss *Metham* and myself were obliged to disencumber ourselves of good part of our clothes in order to adorn the heroines, while the gentlemen shewed the same indulgence to deck the heroes of the stage.

The play went off as might be expected, and procured that approbation

tion which better plays, and better actors, have not always obtained. When the performance was over, Miss *Metham* and myself left the gentlemen engaged over their bottle at the inn, and accompanied the comedians to their hotel, where we had an excellent supper, and leaving the gentlemens clothes in pawn for the payment of it, we set off for town. After a certain time, our friends began to recollect that we were not with them, and that they were arrayed in such garments as the master of the public-house and his waiter could afford them. They therefore set out in search of us, and having paid for our supper in order to redeem their clothes, they followed us, vowing revenge for the trick which had been played them.

Major *Atkinson*, however, was the only person of the company whose vengeance survived the morning; but his vindictive spirit was determined to be satisfied, and he took the following method to effect his purpose.

I had at this time a very beautiful talkative parrot, [which was given me by Sir *Alexander Gilmour*, and who had been taught, among other things, to articulate my name with great distinctness, so that my room would sometimes echo for five minutes together with the repetition of Miss *Sheldon*. The Major, therefore, desired me to let a favourite parrot of his be brought to keep mine company, and to learn the art of speech from so good a master; but as

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my

my own bird was full noisy enough for me, I rather preferred sending him to the Major, than having the additional serenade of his parrot at my house. But he had no parrot; and the moment he got possession of mine, he carried it to a pawnbroker's in *Princes-street, Leicester fields*, whom he knew, and desired him to let the cage hang always at the window of his shop, and take all possible care of the green-coated gentleman who inhabited it. The pawnbroker undertook the charge very readily, and no one attended at that receipt of custom, or could pass down the street, but heard Miss *Sheldon* vociferated by the noisy bird. Among others, my friends Sir *Cecil Bishop* and Mr. *Sweedland* passing that way, heard the parrot calling after Miss *Sheldon*,

when looking round, they saw and knew the bird. This was too good a joke to be immediately passed over, and away they hurried to my house, and rallied me well for having pawned my parrot. At first I seriously denied the charge; but hearing them again and again assert, in the most solemn manner, that the bird was literally hanging in the shop of Mr. *Watson* the pawnbroker, I recollected Major *Atkinson's* menace of revenge, and concluded that he had pawned my parrot, in return for my having taken the same liberty with his clothes. I immediately sent to know for what sum my favourite bird had been pledged, in order to his redemption;—but the pawnbroker refused to restore him to me without an order from the gentleman, who, he said,

said, had left him with the strictest charge not to be delivered up to any one but himself. At length the Major himself arrived, and, on my giving him a bottle of claret, he undertook to fetch home the bird—but all my eloquence could not persuade him to go on this errand till it was dark; for if the parrot, he said, should happen to see the way from the pawn-brokers, he should expect to meet the poor bird on some cursed errand of mine to that quarter, at least four days out of the seven.

Thus ended Major *Atkinson's* joke; and the parrot took possession of its former abode, unconscious of the mirth which it had occasioned, and continuing to let every one know that came to my house, that there

were two such words in the English language as *Miss Sheldon*.

At this time, in spite of my repeated resolutions—but, after all, the reader may say what are a woman's resolutions,—Mr. *Sweedland* might be said to take up his residence once more at my house, and having received an haunch of venison from the country, he invited a party to dinner on the occasion; among whom were Mr. *Ward*, then High Sheriff for the county of *Surry*, Captain *Owen*, Sir *Cecil Bishop*, Major *Atkinson*, and Miss *Metham*. The cook had particular orders to roast the high-flavoured joint to a turn, and for this purpose Mr. *Sweedland* had lent her a very curious stop-watch, that she might not be out in her reckoning. This machine
caught

caught the eye of Major *Atkinson*, who never passed by an opportunity of enjoying what he called a joke; he, therefore, followed me into the kitchen, where I was gone to give some directions about the dinner, and hinted to me, that if I had a mind to know the value of the watch, I might send it where my parrot had been. This kind of hint I was always very well disposed to take, and accordingly ordered a servant to go immediately on the Major's errand; nor was it long before I found myself richer by five guineas than I had been any part of the day.

Dinner was at length served, and after a jovial meal, the desert followed. Among other fruits there were *filberds*, and some of these fil-

berds producing maggots, several wagers were immediately laid on the comparative expedition of these reptiles ;—at length Mr. *Sweedland* proposed to run, or, as he more emphatically called it, to *creep* one of them against time—a circumstance that made his stop-watch essentially necessary, and he demanded its immediate restoration. I assured him that it was in a place of the most perfect security, and therefore desired him to be at rest. But the more I urged its safety, the more he insisted upon having it, till Major *Atkinson* told him that it had been sent to occupy the window where he had seen the parrot, and was already telling the hour to any curious passenger whose business might lead him through *Princes-street, Leicester-fields.* Mr. *Sweedland*

Sweedland did not swallow the joke as he had done the venison, nor did it digest so easily upon his stomach ; but the laugh was so universal against him, that he thought it the best way to pocket the trick—and by sending five guineas to the pawnbroker's to re-pocket the watch.

C H A P. XLI.

An Account of a Gray's-Inn Buck, and of a mad Frolick into Hertfordshire—Curious Conversation in a Stage-Coach—Description of a City Lover—Overturned by my Chairmen in going home, and terribly bruised—Confined some Time in Consequence of this Accident—Major Atkinson lays regular Siege to my Person, but is defeated in every Attack.

THE next day Mr. *Sweedland* went with some of his friends into the country, and I saw no more of him for a considerable time. Mr. *Walsingham* remained at *Windsor*—at least he never took any notice of me—so
I thought

I thought myself at full leisure to indulge my rambling disposition; and I accordingly frequented the public houses of reception for women in my situation. I shall now relate a very singular adventure that occurred to me with a gallant, whom I met in one of them.

Mr. *Pratt*, the master of the house, had called upon me, to beg that I would favour this gentleman with my company in the evening; and as he was represented to be not only rich, but generous, I very readily assented, and was faithful to my appointment. I was received with great civility, and a very elegant supper was ordered to regale me—but, there was something so very extraordinary and romantic in my lover's conversation,

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that,

that, had it not been for the more rational attentions of a gentleman who was with him, I should not have remained an hour in his company. In short, we sat laughing, singing, and drinking, 'till it was near five in the morning, when this strange personage proposed, that we should accompany him about twenty-five miles out of town, to a place in *Hertfordshire*, where he wanted to go, in order to purchase an horse. As this had the air of a frolic, I readily consented—the gentleman who was with us did not refuse—and we all set out in a post-chaise and four; and, about eight o'clock, arrived at the end of our journey. Tea and coffee were immediately ordered; and a chamber was prepared for me, that I might

re-

recover myself from my fatigue, by a little repose.

In the mean time, my gentleman proposed to fulfil his errand, by purchasing the horse, which belonged to the Landlord, and desired an immediate tryal—to which the cautious host refused his assent, unless he was equally well mounted to accompany him. After some time, however, an arrangement was made between them; and *Boniface* having taken the best post-horse in his stable, they both set out, in order that the merits of the nag in question might be fully ascertained. An handsome dinner had been ordered, previous to their return; and I enjoyed my slumbers, 'till they were interrupted by the Landlord, who ran about the house
like

like a madman—as his companion, and my gallant friend, had fairly, or rather unfairly, outrode him, and was gone off with the horse.

This business caused no small confusion; and I began to feel myself very uncomfortable in my situation, as the gentleman who accompanied us was gone farther into the country, and I naturally expected that some very unpleasant suspicions would fall upon me; I therefore sent for the Landlady, and gave her a very candid history of my acquaintance with this unaccountable person, who had brought me to her house; and expressed my hopes, that no part of his conduct would be imputed to me.—Indeed, the good woman soon set me at my ease, and intreated, in the most civil

civil terms, that I would not make myself unhappy, for that they knew the gentleman very well, and had been long accustomed to his tricks and vagaries. She said, that he had lived in the town; and, at one time, owned several houses in it, which he had sold, in order to indulge his extravagant fancies—she also informed me, that he had two sisters, who resided in the neighbourhood; and that it was no uncommon practice with him, to go and break their windows, if they did not supply him with money.

But still I had reason to indulge some apprehensions; for I could not but consider myself as left in pawn, for the expences of the house; and, as I had but very little money with
me,

me, I began to look upon my shoe-buckles, which cost twenty guineas, as the only friends to relieve me from my present embarrassments. Dinner, however, was served at the hour appointed; and, to give me all possible comfort, the landlady and her daughter were so obliging as to sit at table with me. But fortune did not quite desert me on the occasion; for two gentlemen coming from town, and being informed of my situation, desired permission to take their tea with me. I did not hesitate to receive them; and was accommodated, by their generosity, with more than sufficient to pay all demands at the inn, and to bear my expences to *London*—which, however, were not very great, as I took a place for the next morning in the stage-coach; and, had I
been

been in my usual state of good spirits, my companions in the journey would have afforded me no small share of amusement.

They consisted of an old man and his wife, who, being apprehensive of highwaymen, were continually quarrelling, about the secreting half a dozen silver tea-spoons, and a pair of sugar-tongs, which they were carrying as a present to a God-daughter in *London*. At length, after a thousand ridiculous proposals as to the hiding place of this treasure, a corner was thought of, where, I believe, no highwayman, or robber, of any kind, would have thought of looking for a booty. This important point being settled between the parties, the conversation took a different turn,

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which

which was no less than a relation of the story of the *fellow*, as they called him, who had run away from the inn with an horse belonging to the Landlord, that was worth sixty guineas—nor did they spare the *barlot*, as they were pleased to call me, who had accompanied him; and who, they very kindly supposed, was in the secret of the business, and knew where to find the rascal, in order to assist him in getting rid of the money, for which they concluded he had, by that time, sold the horse.

During this conversation, I did not, as may be naturally supposed, feel myself very comfortable; but, in order to avoid all suspicion, I joined heartily in it, and took some liberties with myself, which would not have been

been very welcome, if they had been taken by another. At length we arrived in town; and I did not delay a moment to wait on Mr. *Pratt*, in order to thank him, in my way, for his obliging recommendation—but he assured me, that the gentleman lived in a very handsome manner, in *Gray's-Inn*; and, though he was wild and eccentric, he declared it to be the first instance of his not having acted with generosity, to any lady, whom he had engaged to meet in that house.

I now returned home; and, in half an hour after my arrival, received a visit from Captain *Somerset*, of the Navy; who, though he laughed most heartily at my adventure, abused me most sincerely, in his good-humoured way, for frequenting places, where

I was

I was liable to such impositions; especially as I had generous friends to visit me at home, and so good an house to receive them.

To know what is right, and to perform it, are two very different things—however, in this particular I observed the friendly Captain's admonition for some time, and was very seldom without visitors; but, as the reader must have long ago observed, I possessed a very truant disposition; and any plan, which promised an union of variety and advantage, was, in general, embraced by me: another message, therefore, from Mr. *Pratt*, to meet a wealthy merchant from the city, drew me again to the purlieus of *Covent-Garden*, and the entertainment of a Brothel.

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To this Merchant I was presented—and partook with him of a very elegant supper—but his manners were not pleasing, nor was his conversation brilliant; for it turned upon no other individual subject, than a ball given by the *Lady Mayorefs*, where he had gained great applause by the elegance of his dancing.

As yet I had only seen the upper part of my gallant; but, when he advanced into the middle of the room, in order to give me a specimen of his grace and agility, he discovered such a pair of bandy legs, as determined me to bid him a very speedy adieu—and, while he was attentively executing a *pas de rigadon*, I made a *pas* of another kind—walked quietly out of the room, and ordered a chair to
take

take me home. My friend Mr. *Pratt* remonstrated with all his eloquence; but, as he was not a sufficient master of oratory to talk the Merchant's legs into a decent shape, it had not the power to remove my disgust, or detain me with the object of it.

Though, as it happened, it might have done better for me to have passed the evening with the bandy-legged citizen; for the chairmen, in taking me home, contrived to overturn the machine they carried: so that I was not only very severely bruised, but my face was cut in such a manner, as to oblige me to confine myself, for a considerable time, to the confines of my own mansion. But this accident did not prevent me from receiving particular friends; and, among them,

them, I should be ungrateful to Sir *Francis Molyneux*, if I did not mention his kind attentions, and the many excellent receipts he communicated to me, for the purpose of repairing the injuries which my visage had sustained.

At this period, Miss *Metham* and Major *Atkinson* quarrelled and separated. This circumstance added another constant follower to my train; but, notwithstanding all his attentions, and the various presents he made me, I kept him at a great distance from that familiarity, which seemed to be the first object of his wishes. Though he was continually laying some pretty *bagatelle* at my feet—though not a week passed without his ordering elegant dinners to my
I house—

house—though, in short, he gave me money whenever I wanted it—he still remained in the mortifying position I have already described.

The Major was a very excellent foldier; and, finding that he could not take the citadel by a regular siege, he began to bribe the centinels at the out-posts—he used, therefore, to lend Miss *Winckels*, my confidential mantua-maker, whatever money she wanted, in order to win her over to his projects, and induce her to apply any well-timed insinuations, to forward the possession of his wishes—but when he found, at length, that all the efforts he had hitherto made were vain, he changed his *façon d'agir*, and metamorphosed all his persuasions into threat and menace.

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In short—he declared his intention of arresting me for the presents he had made me; and actually did arrest the poor Mantua-maker for the money he had lent her: so that, to save herself from a gaol, she was obliged to find security for repaying the Major's bribes, by an arranged set of installments: still, however, he continued to trouble my door; and one day, when he was accidentally admitted, he began to renew all his fine offers, and to declare, in the most ardent manner imaginable, that, if I would but live with him, he would instantly make a most ample settlement upon me; but his conduct had been such of late, that I told him in pretty plain—and, I fear, in pretty vulgar terms—that if he did not get out of the house, I would call half a dozen

men to shake him well in a sack, which was the only way I should take of settling with him. After this agreeable rally, I saw the Major no more.

C H A P. XLII.

Again reconciled to Mr. Walsingham, who intreats me to alter my course of life, in which I promised a Compliance; but, notwithstanding, dine with a convivial Society next day at the Bedford-Arms, consisting of Lord Corke, Sir Richard Symons, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Oliver, &c. where all my Resolution to reform forsook me—Amour with Lord Melbourne—Anecdote relative thereto.

I HAD had now been for some time obliged to remain at home on account of the wounds in my face, which were not yet quite healed: however, being tempted to take a walk with Miss Winckels, who was going to wait on the Honourable Miss

Chetwynd, I was so fortunate, as we were crossing *Berkley-Square*, to meet Mr. *Walsingham*—I say fortunate, because, though we never agreed for a week together, all the prepossession of which my heart was capable belonged to him.—After asking me about my face, and rallying me, in his own way, on the subject, he appointed to call upon me in the evening, and I was not unprepared to receive him.

My friend came, as usual, to the moment, and, as usual, with a long string of moralizing remonstrances on my wicked and abandoned life ; little thinking, good gentleman, to what noble person I was indebted for all the disgraces of it. But, after he had given me my admonitory trimming,

ming, he steered his ordinary course to my house, which, in his opinion, was too large for me, and, besides, too public for him to appear at its door without being observed: He therefore proposed my taking a small house, or a lodging, at some distance from town, when he would be constant in his attentions to me—to all which I very readily assented.—Thus did this visit pass like so many others from this gentleman, in grave proposals of changing my situation on his part, a demure submission to his pleasure on mine, and no further concern about the matter from either.

The dilatory scratches in my face being now removed, I was ready to obey any summons to pleasure or pro-

fit, and I soon received one which promised to continue them. This was an invitation from Dr. *Oliver*, to desire my company to supper at the *Bedford-Arms*, with Mr. *Dillon*, Mr. *Townley*, Sir *Richard Symons*, Lord *Corke*, and several other gentlemen of convivial debauchery.

As I wanted a hoop, in order to dress myself in all my airs on the occasion, which I had lent to a lady who lived in *Soho*, I took a walk thither to fetch it, and to invite her to accompany me to the entertainment. Before I had got to her house, it began not only to be dusky but drizzling with rain; and, as I was hurrying to get away from both these inconveniences, I was joined by a very civil gentleman, who expressed

ed the politest wishes to conduct me home ; but I was in a modest humour, and therefore excused my receiving his offer, with an assurance that where I was going it would be impossible for him to be admitted : At the door therefore of my friend's lodging I took my leave of this agreeable companion, and fulfilled the object of my errand.

After staying a quarter of an hour, I proceeded on my return home, when I was again overtaken by my gallant attendant, whose renewed proposals I received without my former hesitation.—As we were passing along, I perceived, by the strong light of a shop, that my companion was no less a person than Lord *Melbourne* ; but finding, when we were at length

seated in the dining-room, that he did not make himself known, I thought it best to indulge his fancy at least for a few minutes; and therefore asked him if he was not a person in trade, as his language and appearance seemed to denote. To this observation he replied, after some compliments on my penetration, in the affirmative:—"Indeed," added he, "to tell you the truth, I am
" in a snug comfortable way of business, have a wife, a child, and
" keep a maid servant, and lately
" have set up a *buggy*, in which I
" take out my family of a Sunday,
" and sometimes of a Saturday afternoon. — "And pray," says I,
" have you not a corner for poor
" *Harriet*?" "For what *Harriet*?" answered he hastily. "For *Harriet*
" *Lamb*,

“*Lamb*, my Lord,” replied I.—On which he began to examine me a little cloſer, and immediately diſcovered who I was.—The confequence of this eclclairciſſement was a good deal of humour on both ſides, and which ended in the beſt humour of all; for, after promiſing to call upon me the next morning, he flipped a paper into my hand, which, from the weight of it, I thought had been his tradesman’s joke, and was full of halfpence; but, when he was gone, I found, to my comfort, that the contents of the packet did not proceed from a ſhopkeeper’s till, but a nobleman’s purſe, for it contained twenty guineas.

I now dreſſed and proceeded to my evening’s amuſement, where I found a large and jovial company,

and as merry we all were, as eating,
and drinking, and music, and good
humour could make us : Indeed,

It was singing and dancing,
And pleasure advancing :—

But Dr. *Oliver* bore me from the rest,
as his *Nancy* home.

The Doctor was not only a generous, but a reasonable lover ; for, on my informing him of my appointment with Lord *Melbourne*, he hurried me away, that I might not miss of any advantage ; and the visits of that noble Lord were always as beneficial as generosity could make them.—In my way home, Lord *John Lenox* overtook me, and invited me very urgently to dine with him, Captain *Garthside*, and Miss *Montague*, who then lived with the latter gentle-

tleman: But the cravings of my purse were always more powerful than those of my stomach;—it cannot therefore be supposed, that I would leave the Lord, who would satisfy the one, for the Lord who would only satisfy the other; I therefore was faithful to my appointment, and my noble friend was true to his. Lord *Melbourne*'s visits were always short, but very sweet; for they never failed to leave me considerably richer than they found me.

CHAP. XLIII.

Sketch of the Life of Miss Brown, who was protected by Mr. Fletcher.—Another Masquerade Scene,—attended by Lord J. Lenox, Miss Montague and Captain Garthside;—am mistaken by a Jealous City Haberdasher for his Wife, and laid violent hands on; the Confusion that ensued.—Mr. Walsingham again proposes a Plan of Retirement, which, like all the former, soon vanished. A most extraordinary assemblage of Forty-five Women of abandoned Character.—Their supping together, and the Consequences that followed.

THE next morning Miss Brown called upon me, to propose a party with her to Maidenhead Bridge, to meet Mr. Fletcher, a member of the House of Commons, who was doatingly fond of her. He had taken her from home, and placed her

her at a boarding-school in order to qualify her to live in his house, and preside at his table; but she had ran away from the school, and seemed no otherwise qualified to sit at any table than by possessing an appetite which would devour every thing that was placed before it. I need not observe here, or in any other part of my work, that amusement and variety, were ever acceptable to me, so I accompanied her in her jaunt; and we were no sooner arrived at our destination, than she disappeared to order dinner, which, without waiting for Mr. *Fletcher*, she commanded to be served the moment it was ready:—and I was as much astonished as she was delighted, with the appearance of a huge shoulder of mutton, garnished with potatoes.— This kind of dish did not please my palate,

late, tho' it did her's, for she actually eat or rather devoured the greatest part of it,—and I therefore ordered a few little articles of a more delicate nature, which were served up as a second course,—and for which my voracious friend, seemed to possess a second appetite. The high-flavoured ragouts shared the same fate as the simple joint, and if astonishment could have satisfied my hunger, I had little need of any additional food. At length, however, Mr. *Fletcher* arrived, and after ordering a post-chaise and four to take me to town, he and his *Dulcinea* proceeded on their journey. Mr. *Fletcher* appeared to be a most amiable and well bred man, and had proved his attachment to this little *Sparrow-Hawk*,

Hawk, by providing for all her family, as well as herself.

On my arrival in town, I found a letter from Mr. *Swedeland* with a parcel, which contained six silver table spoons, and two pieces of *Holland*.—The Epistle was as follows.

“ Dear Nancy.

“ I shall be in town in
 “ two or three days.—My aunt has
 “ intercepted some of your letters,
 “ while I was at Sir *Cecil*'s.—She
 “ and Mrs. *Cox* the House-keeper
 “ have had my servant locked up
 “ in a room to know who you was ;
 “ but the dog was staunch, and
 “ would own to nothing.—When I
 “ returned home, he was gone to

I

“ *Sutton*

“ *Sutton* for an horse, which I had
“ ordered him. When Mr. *Farwcet*
“ called upon me, I told him that
“ I should go to church on Sunday;
“ when my aunt asked if Mrs.
“ *Archer* was to be there, I was a
“ little confused ; but I passed it off
“ as well as I could, and rallied
“ them off by saying, they should
“ see you some time or other.—If
“ you have no occasion for *Will*,—
“ send him back.

“ Yours Sincerely,

“ S——”

I now took an opportunity of
paying a visit to Miss *Montague*, and
dined with her, Lord *J. Lenox*, and
Captain

Captain *Garthside*, who all lived in the same house, in *Berkeley Square*.—Here I passed a very merry day, and the following evening we all went to the masquerade.—Lord *John*, was my *beau*, in the character of a *fryar*, and I was his *belle*, in that of a *nun*. His Lordship proposed this arrangement to save us the trouble of talking, “for as we should appear,” he said, “as persons who did not belong to the world, no one would ask us any questions about it.” But he was confoundedly mistaken; for no poor devoted female was more tormented by her wishes in a cloister, than I was by my friends in the *Haymarket*.—The noble Captain *Walsingham* was, as usual, disposed to moralize, and began with, “wishing that the in-

“nocence

“nocence of my habit could be
“transferred to my life.”—“But
“thanks to you sir,” replied I, with
a tone of voice, that made him
change colour, “that is impossible.”
“Well then,” said he, rallying
himself,—“you may repent and
“recover that chastity in a convent,
“which you have lost in the world.”
“As for a convent,” answered I,
“it will meet with no objection
“from me, provided it is a ship of
“the line, and that you are my
“father confessor.”

This little turn, (which, with all
its complimentary colour, proceeded
from my heart,) had such an effect
upon his, that he desired me not to
quit the place without informing
him, by some signal, of the moment
of

of my departure, and he would contrive to follow me.—This command I did not forget; but it was impossible for me to escape from any place of this public nature, without something of an adventure,—and at the very door of the theatre, a very singular one befell me. Lord *John* and his friends had promised to set me down at my own house, and as I was getting into the coach, a strange, wild looking kind of man seized me round the waist, and calling out for assistance, declared I was his wife.—Conscious as I was, that I had an husband, I began to tremble at the apprehension that my *Benedict* had come in pursuit of me; but it turned out to be an honest enraged haberdasher of the City, whose wife had determined upon a little amusement
at

at the West-end of the town. The poor man being informed she was at the masquerade, had concluded, that as her design was profligate, she would naturally chuse the habit of chastity, as a disguise, and therefore had fixed upon the innocence of my dress, as the veil of his wife's iniquities—I was obliged to unmask to satisfy his jealous curiosity; and, after no small disturbance from the mob which had been collected on the occasion, I returned home in an habit whose tattered appearance made it at length no improper emblem of *her* virtue who wore it. Mr. *Walsingham* arrived soon after me; and on quitting me the next morning, repeated his accustomed admonition, to give up my house, and seek a more retired situation, while I expressed

pressed my usual disposition to submit myself to his pleasure, in all things;—but, it was not destined, for the present at least, that our fine dreams of prudence and affection, should grow into reality.

Alas ! instead of solitude and the shades,—the charms of peaceful reflection and improving conversation,—I was doomed to range the wilds of intemperance and prostitution; for Mr. *Walsingham* had not been gone ten minutes before I received a message from Mrs. *Thornton*, to desire I would make one of a large party at her house on the Monday evening following, by the desire of Mr. *Oliver*, as forty-five gentlemen, (*Wilkes's* number,) had agreed to sup there, and intended to have the same quantity

tity of ladies, if they could be found. That they were to be found, was very evident ; for by nine o'clock on the evening appointed, we were all assembled, and as no gentlemen were yet arrived, the company might be said to be feminine, but the wit and good-humour was, from time to time, of the masculine gender.

When forty-five women of the town, and such as would be at the call of a bagnio, were assembled together ; consisting of friends and enemies, acquaintances and strangers—the sick and the well, and comparatively speaking, the rich and the poor ; such a conversation might be expected as I, who composed a part of it, should be ashamed to repeat, and which, if it were written, would
scarce

scarce find a reader even among those who uttered it.

Woman is called deceitful, in the moral canting of the other sex, she is represented as fallacious by nature, and as preferring, on every occasion, the crooked path of hypocrisy. What the female character may be by nature, I am not sufficiently skilled in the knowledge of to determine. But this I will say, for I know it well, that when women are brought by the seduction of men, to practise those arts from necessity, which they are accused of favouring from choice ; when they have been taught by the arts of men, to look upon them as their prey, they refine upon duplicity, it is their daily bread, and men become, as they deserve,
the

the dupes of those very *Dalilabs* which they themselves created

But to return to my subject.

As it drew towards midnight we received a message from Mr. *Oliver*, informing us, that the gentlemen could not come immediately, and that we should not wait for supper a moment beyond twelve o'clock ; accordingly at that hour it was served ; and such a scene of carving, helping, eating and drinking, ensued, as, could it be related, would not be believed. But, to crown the whole, our landlady, Mrs. *Thornton*, observing we were still without gentlemen, thought proper to introduce two of her friends to partake of our conviviality ; but one of these unfortunate personages
having

having, at some former period, been guilty of ungenteel treatment to one of the ladies present, the watch-word was given, and a most violent attack was made upon him with such ammunition as the plates and dishes afforded. A blanket was then called for, and he would most assuredly have experienced all the discipline of it, if Lord *Molefworth*, who was sleeping in an adjoining room, had not quitted his bed, and run in half naked among us, to avert the mischief. As we all knew his Lordship, he continued to pacify us, and to give the trembling culprit an opportunity to escape.

The bustle being a little over, Lord *Molefworth* retired to his bed, and we returned to our glasses ; and finding,

after some time, that no gentlemen arrived to visit us, we determined to pay our respects at least to one of them; and it was accordingly proposed for the whole company to make an attack upon our good friend Dr. *Oliver's* door, in *Cecil-street*.

We ordered, therefore, all the hackney coaches that could be got together, and the whole troop of forty-five women, some within the carriages, and others behind, and a few more adventurous ones on the boxes, set out to *Cecil-street*, and drew up in order before Dr. *Oliver's* door;—and I really believe that the midnight amusements of *London*, various as they may have been, never produced a similar spectacle. Having called the Doctor from his bed, and brought him
to

to his window, we continued our noise and riot till the neighbourhood became alarmed, and a retreat to our respective homes was found necessary to save us from the asylum of a *round-house*.

C H A P. XLIV.

Mr. Walsingham gives me a Lecture on my late indiscreet Conduct.—Receive a Visit from Lord Deloraine, who brings a Lady to reside with me—spend a happy Winter—accompany Mr. Swedland to Box-hill—form a strange Connection with a Mr. Caijou, a Captain of a French Merchant Ship—am confined forty Days in Westminster Gate-house out of a Spirit of Revenge.

A Few days after this adventure, Mr. Walsingham came with more than ordinary displeasure, to call me to an account for my late indiscretion. In short, he said so much, and was so full of his menaces, that I told him, with some kind of asperity, I supposed

posed he brought me one of his wife's morning lectures, and that he had come in that hurry to prevent it from getting cool. This little sarcasm did not encrease his complaisance, but it hastened his departure—and he left me with a declaration that he would never see me again.

As I really loved Mr. *Walsingham* better than any other man in the world, these disputes always chagrined me; and I should have been very uneasy at his manner of parting from me, if the arrival of Mr. *Sweedland*, and the jovial scenes that he always brought with him, had not amused my chagrin.

At this time I received a visit from Lord *Deloraine*, who wished me to as-

first him in procuring an apartment, and a proper companion for a lady he intended to bring to town. This aid I immediately afforded his Lordship; for I offered any part of my house as an accommodation to the lady by way of apartment; and that being readily accepted, I presented myself by way of companion; nor was I refused.

Lord *Deloraine*, therefore, soon brought me his fair *dulcinea*, who remained the best part of the winter with me; and as his Lordship was generous to profusion, it was, I think, the most agreeable winter of my life, as there was no kind of amusement, pleasure, or luxury, that he did not procure for us.

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In the early part of the spring, Mr. *Sweedland* proposed my accompanying him to *Bax-Hill*, and twenty pounds for a riding habit, was one of the conditions on which I consented to go. It may be thought indeed, that such circumstances are not worth relating; and, did they stand alone, I should not offer them. But if the reader should be a person of observation, and I know no reason why I may not presume that he or she may be such, it need not be observed on my part, that massive tissues are made of single threads; and that, while the greatest things frequently derive there eclat and proudest circumstances from trifling events, it ought to be remembered, that such a life as mine can be composed of no other;—and this riding habit will be

the cause of leading me, and, of course, every one who accompanies me, to a scene as new as it was unexpected and unpropitious.

For the purpose of making up this dress, Miss *Hudson* recommended me to a Mr. *Demooly*, a taylor, where I went to be measured for that purpose; and while this ceremony was performing, and directions were taking, I engaged, as it were accidentally, in conversation with a gentleman who was there, and whom I afterwards knew to be a Mr. *Caijou*, the captain of a trading vessel between *London* and *Boulogne*. As he knew something of a lady that I had formerly known when she lived with Lord *Carysfort*, but who now resided at *Boulogne*, our conversation became interesting; and

as

as he generously proposed to pay the taylor for making my habit, on the one hand, I invited him to dine with me, the following day, on the other. Mr. *Cajjou* came as he promised, and made his visit more welcome by accompanying it with the present of a very handsome silk cloak, and some elegant lace for a cap. In short, this *French* merchantman became very sociable, and I continued to receive occasional and friendly visits from him.

If I were to apologise for introducing trifles in this work, I must necessarily prepare an apology for every page; but I have already sufficiently observed upon that subject, and therefore shall proceed to relate, without hesitation, that one day when Mr. *Sweedland* dined with me, a boiled

chicken happened to go untouched from the table, and I took the liberty, as being mistress of the house, to order this self-same chicken to be kept for supper ; an exertion of power on my part that gave great umbrage to the mistress of the kitchen ; who, when the hour of supper arrived, accompanied the dish to the parlour door, at the same time making that kind of noise which is used to drive living fowls. On enquiring the cause of this bustle, she told me without reserve, that she came to drive the cold chicken into the parlour ; and, without giving me an opportunity to observe upon her impertinence, began to attack me rather severely for depriving the kitchen of its rights, by ordering any thing a second time into the parlour.

I have never appeared, in the course of this narrative, to want spirit;—and this, surely, was not a time to check it. Though the woman had lived with me upwards of six years, I did not hesitate to assure her that she should live with me no more—and, after the regular course of a month's warning, she was discharged. The interval, however, she employed to a very cunning and malicious purpose. Having run me in debt without my knowledge, to a number of the little shops in the neighbourhood, she hinted to these petty and unknown creditors that I should shortly go abroad, and therefore advised them to summons me to the Court of Conscience. As she had arranged the matter with these people, she never failed to receive

the summonses as they were delivered, and was equally cautious in keeping them from my knowledge ;—so that these suits all proceeded to execution, without my knowing any thing of the matter.

I was, however, soon informed, and not in the pleasantest manner, of this very unexpected circumstance, by being arrested, as I was walking in *St. James's-street*, with Mrs. *Evers*, of *Cleveland-row*, and Mrs. *Letchmere*. I immediately retired to that lady's apartment to settle the matter, when my protector told me that he had seen other executions against me, amounting in all to about thirteen pounds.

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In the whole course of my life, with such an irritable temper as I possessed, and the various circumstances that had been continually playing upon it, I never remember myself to have been affected with so much mortification. In talking over the matter, the bailiff told me, that forty days imprisonment would settle the whole, and that I need not enter the *Gatehouse*, which was the common prison, but might have very comfortable apartments in the keeper's house, and, liberty excepted, be as conveniently situated there as in my own.

To the keeper's house then I went as fast as an hackney-coach could carry me,—and there I remained for the forty days which were to pay my impertinent creditors. During
that

that time my friends visited me as if I had been in my own house, and were continually persuading me to give over my freak, and let them pay the money, which would discharge me; but this I actually refused, and had a swing put up in the yard for my exercise and amusement. I was obstinately bent on the accomplishment of my frolic, by punishing the people who had taken such an unjustifiable method of persecuting me.

C H A P. XLV.

Break up House-keeping, and accompany Mr. Caijou to France, taking my Coach with me—Represents me as an English Lady of Fashion at Rouen—A strange Adventure there with a Mr. Lebar and an Irish Priest—Set off for Paris—Arrival there—Obliged to hire an Interpreter—Mr. Caijou growing inconvenient to me, am greatly perplexed to get rid of him.

AT length, however, the term of my captivity was expired; and the keeper of the prison, who had greatly profited by his guest, wished, if possible, to keep me a little longer, and therefore made fine excuses not to let me out at the time
the

the law gave me liberty, as he had been informed that a detainer was coming against me. I had also had the same information, and the same reason, which rendered him dilatory, rendered me active. I was determined therefore to make an effort for my freedom; and, as he was an old man, I easily threw him on his back, when he opposed my way; and pushing the turnkey over a tub that was behind him, I unlocked the door, and made the best of my way to my own house; where I found every thing in the same order I had left it. My friends continued to visit me as usual, and I soon forgot my temporary exile in the *Gate-House of Westminster*.

Mr.

Mr. *Caijou*, the *Boulogne* Captain, was, among others, very constant in his attentions to me ; and, as he was going to *Paris*, did all he could to tempt me to accompany him ; and, after repeated efforts to that effect, he at length succeeded in prevailing upon me to take a journey, where he made me believe I should soon make my fortune. The idea pleased my fancy, and I was determined to pursue it without delay: So I disposed of my house, sold my goods, redeemed my coach, and set out in it, with Mr. *Caijou* by my side, and upwards of five hundred pounds in my pocket, to *Brighthelmstone*, in my way to *France*. After being detained a few days in waiting for a packet, we set sail, and arrived safe and well at *Dieppe* ; from whence we set off
the

the following day for *Rouen*, where we made some stay. Here Mr. *Cajou* had several acquaintances; and, as I was not known to be otherwise than he represented me, as an English lady of *fashion*, they shewed me every possible civility; and, to say the truth, I enjoyed as much satisfaction with these pleasant and polite people, as a total ignorance of their language would allow me.

But there was a beautiful young officer in the hotel where I lodged, and whose window was opposite to mine, who would soon, I believe, have communicated a little of the French language to me, if his old uncle had not arrived and opened his trenches, for he was a general officer, before my citadel. He spoke English
extre-

extremely well ; and, if he would have served as an interpreter, I should have been extremely pleased with his visits ; but he presented himself as the principal figure in the picture, and threw the young man too far into the back ground for my contentment. Indeed I soon found that *Rouen* was not the place for me—Civilities, it is true, were heaped upon me ; but they were empty amusements, and I had been too long accustomed to receive profit as well as pleasure from the passing hours, that I was dissatisfied if they did not come attended with both.—A visit from an English merchant was all I had hitherto received, and he chose to keep up the course of trade, and carry on his dealings by barter, for he made a present of a watch, which, I
suppose

suppose, in the course of his dealings he could have sold for fifty guineas. I had also the honour of strolling about the town with Lord *Egremont*, who, on his departure for *England* left me a packet of tea as a legacy.

A Mr. *Lebar*, an eminent velvet merchant, taking a liking to my carriage, I thought it prudent to sell it to him for ninety louisdo'rs. This good man was so pleased with his purchase, that he invited me to dine with him, and a very elegant dinner was provided on the occasion. In the desert, among a great variety of beautiful confectionary, and the finest fruits, there were some peaches preserved in brandy, which I eat so plentifully that, going after dinner to see the bridge of boats, I was taken

taken so ill, that they were obliged to put me into a *vinaigrette*, a kind of sedan-chair on wheels, and take me home.—Indeed, so powerfully did the peaches operate on me, that, I was absolutely senseless, or in plain English dead drunk. A few hours sleep, however, restored me to myself, and when I awoke, nothing could equal my astonishment, when I saw a strange figure of a man, dressed in a coarse brown mantle, and a beard hanging down to his girdle, sitting by the side of my bed. As my recollection did not immediately return, I could not conceive into what place or purgatory I had got to, when, the good father, for he was a Capuchin friar, informed me, in all the correctness of a *Tipperary* dialect, that he was desired to

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attend

attend me, in order to hear me confess my sins, and prepare myself, like a good christian for the other world.

As I had no design to take such a journey, I very frankly informed him so; and recommended him to take himself out of the room as fast as his bare feet could carry him: but, finding, he was not disposed to move, and that he continued muttering his prayers, and crossing himself; I was obliged to threaten him with a sprinkling not of—holy water,—that I had at hand, if he did not depart. Still, however, he hesitated to walk off, and I was obliged to alarm the house with an outcry, that made him bundle up his petticoats and hurry out of the room as fast as his old legs could carry him. The people who
came

came running into the room in consequence of the alarm I had given, and had met the fryar hobbling down the stairs, could not conceive what was the matter; nor had I French enough to explain myself. At length, however, my old general made his appearance, and served as the interpreter of my history, to the no small amusement of every one present. I afterwards found that this poor fryar had been sent by the velvet merchant, who, not suspecting my real sickness, thought there might be danger of my body, and therefore very piously did all that depended on him, to provide for my soul.

Mr. *Caijou*, who accompanied me in my journey, was not quite so convenient as I sometimes wished him
to

to be, and we had frequent quarrels upon that subject, and once, in particular, I entertained a French gentleman, with an example of English discipline, by beating this Mr. *Caijou* with one of my shoes all round the room, for daring to stay in the chamber when I had given an hint that his absence would be agreeable to me. But as I had a considerable sum of money, which he had considered as his prey, he was very unpleasant indeed when I shewed a disposition to see any other person than himself.

As it was not in my power to get rid of this man at *Rouen*, I determined to set off for *Paris*, where I naturally imagined it would be in my power to dismiss him whenever I thought proper,

proper, and, after a journey of much fatigue and novelty, though not attended with any circumstances worth a relation, unless my riding astride for a couple of posts, be considered as one; we arrived safe at the capital of the French kingdom,—and took an handsome apartment at a cutler's facing the Opera-house.—As I could not speak the French-tongue, it was absolutely necessary for me to have an interpreter. and I hired an *Irish* girl who had lived for many years in *Paris*, and spoke the language of the country as well as her own.

C H A P. XLVI.

*My first Conquest in Paris, the Duke de ———
—The awkward situation I was frequently in,
by not understanding the French Language.—
In Love with the Duke de Chartres.—Mr.
Caijou becomes troublesome again to me.—Am
obliged to apply to the English Ambassador,
Lord Stormont, to get rid of him*

AFTER having rested myself for a day, I indulged my natural curiosity to see whatever was worth observation in the gay and gallant city of which I was become an inhabitant; I visited the *Thuilleries*, the *Palais Royal*, and every public place

place where I could see and be seen. The *Boulevards* was one of my favourite walks, and as I was walking there one afternoon with my *femme de chambre*, a coach drawn by eight horses, and attended by servants in very sumptuous liveries passed by us, and stopping soon after, a tall gentleman, very elegantly dressed, issued from the carriage: and, without any previous ceremony accosted me in the French language. As I neither understood, or could reply to him, I was obliged to have recourse to my *femme de chambre*, to serve as an interpreter between us, and by her intervention, I heard more handsome, and flattering things said to me in half an hour, than I had heard before in the whole course of my life. After walking and chatting in the best

manner we could for some time, he proposed my meeting him a little way out of the gates at seven o'clock, when he would communicate something to me, which might not be to my disadvantage. To this I readily consented, and he took his leave with as much respect and as many low bows, as if I had been a princess of the blood, and not a princess of fortune.

When he was gone, my female companion, who was of the right complexion for my purpose, began to simper insidiously and compliment me on the conquest I had just made; and, indeed, I was not a little proud of the circumstance, when I was informed that the personage with whom I had been conversing was the

Duke

Duke de ——— and a near relation to the King. In short, I began to grow impatient for the hour of appointment, and amused the interval with many a bright dream of fortune, which a mind, (as the minds of those in my situation must ever be,) continually animated by hope, or harrassed by fear, is ever disposed to encourage. At length, however, the clocks chimed seven, and I repaired to the place of appointment, where the Duke was ready to receive me, and a very handsome young man (whom I afterwards knew to be the *Duke de Chartres*) along with him. After sauntering for a quarter of an hour, the latter took his leave, but contrived to whisper my servant that he should see me again.

He was no sooner gone than my first lover began to make his enquiries concerning my situation; and being informed where I lodged, expressed his wishes that I would remove immediately to some other quarter; and that he then should be most happy to visit me, and do every thing in his power to make *Paris* agreeable while I thought proper to honour it with my presence, and him with my society. I could almost have laughed at these high-flown compliments, which were so very different from those I had been used to receive at the houses of pleasure in *Covent Garden*, or at my own house in *Delabay-street, Westminster*; but I endeavoured to arrange my manners, and compose my features to the circumstances around me, and
I suc-

I succeeded so far as to compleat my conquest.

But what a strange thing is human happiness! and how busy are our follies and foibles in destroying the little fabrick of it.—Not an hour before, I was elevated beyond expression at the attention of this distinguished person; and now I had seen the Duke *de Charires*, I was so forcibly struck with the latter, that I would with pleasure have yielded all the great promises which had been so lavishly made me by the former. However, I was not quite so inattentive to my interest, as to risk a certain good, for an uncertain pleasure, and on my return home, I dispatched *Nanette*, to enquire about another apartment, in such a situ-

ation as might suit with the wishes the Duke had more particularly expressed to her on the subject ; and the next day I found myself most conveniently situated at a perfumer's, in the *Fauxbourg St. Martin*.

My next plan, was in what manner I should contrive to get rid of Mr. *Caijou*. He had been absent on his own affairs for several days, and when, on his return, he found I had changed my lodgings he began to have his suspicions that my designs were not favourable to him. In fact, he thought that some of my money would be very useful in his traffic, and he accordingly proposed that I should advance him a sum to lay out in snuff-boxes, which he would sell at an enormous profit in
London ;

London; and on my refusal to comply with his proposition, a quarrel ensued between us, and I at length gave him ten guineas to purchase his removal.

I was no sooner settled in my new apartments, than I informed the Duke *de* ——— of my situation, and was favoured with his daily visits. But though he was a man of the most polished manners, and extremely generous in his pecuniary favours, my mind was always inclining me to the Duke *de Chartres*; and notwithstanding I continually met him at public places, and had frequently the honour of conversing with him, I could never get that amiable nobleman into my *trap*, though I baited it with every allurement in my power.

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I had, however, some consolation under my disappointment, by finding that my finances encreased every day ; but a new interruption to my prosperous situation was given me by Mr. *Caijou*, who, informing himself of the company I saw, and drawing some very natural conclusions from thence as to the encreasing state of my purse, made a very bold attack upon me; and threatened, if I did not share my fortune with him, whatever it might be, that he would force me to it, by going to the Police, and swearing that I was his lawful wife. Nay, he terrified me greatly by adding, that if I made the least opposition, he would have me shut up in the *Maison Forte*. But I had very fortunately one with me who was able to advise on the occasion ; and

-*Nanette*

Nanette recommended me to go without delay to the *English* Ambassador, and claim his protection: nor did I hesitate to avail myself of the first opportunity to follow her good counsel. In the mean time, however, I appeared in great good humour with Mr. *Caijou*, who, suspecting nothing of my design, took his afternoon walk, and left me at liberty to pay my visit to the *English* Ambassador's hotel.

Lord *Stormont* was at this time the representative of the *British* Court at that of *Versailles*; but he was not at home when I called, and I was therefore, though with some difficulty, admitted to Mr. *Harvey*, his Lordship's Secretary. That gentleman received me with great civility; and I told

him a plain unvarnished tale of my situation, circumstances, and apprehensions. Nor did I address him in vain; for he not only promised, but honoured me with his protection. He requested me to be under no alarm, and giving me a letter sealed up, he desired me, if any person from the police should come to molest me, to present him with it. The next day Mr. *Harvey* called upon me himself, stayed upwards of an hour, and made me a very genteel present. Very luckily for me, *Caijou* happened to enter the house as Mr. *Harvey* quitted it, and being informed that the gentleman who had been to visit me was Secretary to the *English* Ambassador, his conscience smote him on the occasion, and apprehending that he might have been the cause of
that

that visit, he took himself quietly away, and I saw him no more for three months. Indeed, I had my hopes that Mr. *Harvey's* civilities to me would have been followed by some attentions on the part of Lord *Stormont*, whom I knew to be the intimate friend of Mr. *Walsingham*; but in this, as in many other instances of my foolish vanity, I was mortified with the disappointment of my expectations.

C H A P. XLVII.

My Duke discards me—Meet the Count de Guignes, who takes but little Notice of me—Walking on the Boulevards form an Acquaintance with the Countess de B—A remarkable Circumstance of recovering her favourite Lap-dog, that recommends me to her Friendship, and that of the Count—Takes me to Abbeville—The Count falls in Love with me.

AT this period my Duke, who had been so constant in his attentions to me, began to relax ; and, after sometime, wholly discontinued his visits. I had in the mean while taken some pains to renew my acquaintance with the Count de Guignes ;
but

but whether it was from a change in his circumstances or his fancy, I cannot tell; but, notwithstanding his partiality for me when in *England*, and the earnest manner in which he pressed me to visit *Paris*, he now took very little notice of me, and, when we met, accosted me only with the forms of common civility.

I began, therefore, rather to be dissatisfied with my situation, and had some thoughts of returning to *England*; but my *femme de chambre* kept up my spirits, by assuring me of future conquests. Among other plans, she proposed throwing myself in the way of the Prince of *Conde*; and I used frequently to walk in the gardens of the *Palais Royal* for that purpose, but without the promised success.

success.—One day, however, as I was going thither, who should overtake me but Mr. *Charles Townly* and Lord *Colraine*. We were mutually glad to see each other, and I visited them at the *Hotel D'Angleterre* where they lodged, in order to amuse them with, and make them laugh at my account of my foreign travels. We passed a few hours very agreeably together, and as they were going to *England* the following day, they made a little purse for me between them, and I took my leave.

The next day, as I was walking on the *Boulevards* with *Nanette*, I saw a very beautiful lady sitting, with her little lap-dog, on one of the seats; and, while she attracted my notice, I seemed to be the object of hers:—in short, with that good humour and polite affability, which the
French

French are known so universally to possess, she asked me to sit down by her, and, with the assistance of my interpreters, we entered into a very amusing conversation.—After sitting sometime, I continued my walk.—The next day I had the pleasure of meeting her again in the same place, and renewing my awkward conversation with her. She was, as we found on enquiry, the Countess de B——, a lady of high birth and large fortune; and a circumstance happened which introduced me to her intimate acquaintance, and I may add, friendship.—My Sir *Clement Cotterel*, on this occasion, was no less a personage than the little favourite lap-dog, which I have already mentioned as the companion of the Countess in her afternoon *promenades*.—

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For as *Nannette* and myself were on one of our *look-outs*, we saw a man with a little dog under his arm, which appeared to me to be that which I had seen with the Countess; and on examining the man concerning the animal, he put it down and ran off as swiftly as he was able. Having heard the Countess express a frequent and uncommon attachment to this little *Barbette*, I thought it would be but a mark of civility and good humour, to take it to her house in the *New Square*, which was at no great distance.

On my arrival there, I was received with the most polite welcome; and if I had saved the lady herself from perdition, she could not have expressed herself with a stronger sense

sense of gratitude, than she did upon my restoration of her little favourite. She told me that the Count her husband was then at his castle near *Abbeville*, but that she should nevertheless, beg the favour of me to dine with her the next day. I accordingly accepted the invitation, and a most elegant entertainment was provided on the occasion. I had dressed myself for this visit in the very extreme of the fashion, and had decked *Nanette* also in some of my gayest apparel, in order that she might attend me to interpret between me and the company, which consisted of a great number of persons of distinction. I was extremely pleased, as may be supposed, with the attentions that were paid me, and this satisfaction operating upon my spirits,

rits, I chattered my bad French, and made *Nanette* translate my fine English; so that the novelty and apparent good humour of my eloquence, proved a very great entertainment to the Countess and her company. In short, after this day she never was easy but when I was with her; and *Nanette* having informed her that I was a widow lady of *fashion* in *England*, and of considerable fortune into the bargain, I was treated by this amiable woman with all the respect that such a situation might be supposed to claim.

Though the society of the Countess, and her unremitted civilities were very pleasing in themselves, yet as they were not the precise objects of my journey to *Paris*, I was
forming

forming a plan to give them the slip, when the Count returned from the country. He was a very handsome and engaging man, and manifested an equal disposition with his lady, to make their house and company agreeable to me. Nor was it long before he began to express an inclination beyond the bounds of mere friendship; but, though I am ready to acknowledge, that he was one of the most pleasing men I ever knew, and a person, whom in other circumstances, I should have preferred to almost any man in the world, yet such had been the kindness of the Countess to me, that I was resolved not to be unfaithful to her. Neither opportunity nor importunity could prevail on me, though the Count never failed of snatching the one,
and

and employing the other, to gain the object of his passion.

Soon after his return to *Paris* they went to their country-seat, and forced me along with them: there I stayed upwards of six weeks, and though every day in danger from the attacks of my agreeable host, I still conquered my inclinations, and for once in my life, ardent as they were for indulgence, sacrificed them at the shrine of honour. Indeed, I had a real affection for the amiable Countess, and though I at this time loved the Count, he never gained the most trifling advantage of my partiality for him.

On the return of the family to the Capital, an accident happened which

separated me for some little time from my friends, to their great mortification.—This circumstance arose from an idle vanity of mine in wishing to make my hair of a darker colour, which my *coiffeur* had undertaken to accomplish. What the liquor was which he applied to my tresses for this purpose, I cannot tell, but after submitting to have my head bound up for several days, I found on taking off my bandage that half my hair came away with it, and that what remained was of a colour which no hair of any animal in nature I believe, ever possessed. In short, I was obliged to remain at home as long to repair the injuries my locks had sustained, as I had done in order to produce them.

During

During my acquaintance with the Count and Countess *de B*—— I had, it is true saved every expence of house-keeping, but the article of dress had been very heavy indeed, so that my finances began to decrease in an alarming manner; and as I saw no apparent reason to believe they would be replenished, I began to think seriously, and indeed necessarily of returning to *England*, and mentioned my designs to my friends. At first they would hear nothing of it, and insisted on my coming to live with them as long as I pleased; nay, when the Count found me serious in my intentions, he implored me with tears to stay in *France*, and offered, if I would remain there and be indulgent to his passion, to settle upon me an annuity of three hundred

hundred louis d'ors ; but I was still deaf to his intreaties, and, I am proud to say, that sentiments of honour triumphed over my warmest desires, and that I continued to deserve the friendship of the Countess to the last.

C H A P. XLVIII.

A very singular Amour that occurred to me previous to my leaving Paris,—which was afterwards termed by Mr. Walsingham, “ Miss Sheldon’s Dream.”—The Count de B— presses me to continue in Paris, and offers to settle Three Hundred Louis D’ors upon me.—Withstand his solicitations, and set off for Calais.—Arrival there, and Embarkation from thence,

I Now discharged all my little bills, packed up my cloaths, and prepared to return to *Old England*, and renew the dissipated life of its metropolis; but before I bid adieu to *Paris*, I shall inform my readers of a very singular and mysterious circumstance

cumstance which took place about a fortnight before my departure from it; the history of which I shall relate precisely as it happened to me.

One evening, on my return from supper with the Count and Countess *de B——*, I found a person who had the appearance of an ecclesiastic waiting to speak to me. I was at first very much alarmed at this circumstance, and began to fear that Mr. *Caijou* might have been employing some of his artifices to get me into his possession. My fears, however, were soon dissipated, for this person who spoke a broken but intelligible kind of English, informed me, that he had an hundred louis d'ors at my command, if I would consent to accompany him for a few hours the fol-

night, where he had a commission to conduct me. He informed me at the same time, that, though there were reasons why the visit he proposed I should make, was to be conducted with great mystery, I might rest assured of being perfectly satisfied, that no kind of danger or unpleasant circumstance would attend my compliance with his proposition.

If this unexpected business had happened in *England*, I should not have hesitated a moment, but I had heard such strange stories related of adventures in *France*, that I trembled at the thoughts of engaging in this. However, after consulting with *Nanette*, who gave me every encouragement to accept the proposal made to me, I informed my

my visitor, that I consented to the conditions which had been offered; and would be ready the following evening to submit myself to his guidance. I had no sooner made this declaration, than he presented me with a purse containing the sum he had mentioned, and desiring me, rather in a tone of authority, to be cautious of repeating what had happened, to any person whatever, he made a very profound reverence and took his leave.

The payment being made in advance I thought a good omen; and my *femme de chambre*, who was rather an adept in the business of intrigue, used every argument her experience could suggest, to calm the occasional apprehension which arose in my mind,

from the mysterious manner in which this intrigue,—for there was no doubt of the nature of the business,—was to be conducted. I did not, however, feel altogether comfortable on the occasion ; and though the louis d'ors were very acceptable, I began to think that even gold might be bought too dear.

At length, after a sleepless night and an anxious day, during which fear, hope, and curiosity, had their alternate ascendancy, the hour arrived when I was to venture forth upon this secret adventure. The same person who had been with me the preceding evening, made his appearance, and, giving me his hand, conducted me to a carriage, in which we were no sooner seated, than it drove off

off with the utmost expedition, . After, as well as I could judge, about half an hour's very hard driving, the coach stopped, and my conductor, who had not hitherto spoken a single word, informed me, that it was necessary for me to quit that carriage and get into another ; which was drawn up so close, that we stepped at once into it. After another half hour's journey, we arrived opposite to a little door in a wall,—and my guide, taking me by the hand, opened the gate with a key, and conducted me through it.

It was now about twelve o'clock, and though the night was very dark, I could discern very easily that I was in a garden, in which, from the noise of the water, there appeared several

of those fountains which are so common in *France*. In about five minutes, however, we arrived at an house, which, as far as I could judge, was a very spacious building. Here he opened another door, and led me into a small vestibule, where an elderly woman received us, and taking me by the hand, conducted me up a narrow winding stair-case into a most beautiful little chamber, lined in every part with looking glasses. She then seated me upon a sofa, and tapping gently at a door on the opposite side of the room to where I sat, hastily retired. Nor was she gone a moment before a very elegant, but swarthy man, made his appearance, dressed in a long robe *de chambre*, beautifully decorated with lace and ribbands. He accosted me in the politest manner, but

but in the language of the country, of which I knew enough to understand that there was a great deal about love, and something about *England* in his discourse. He seemed, however, to be nearly as well versed in my language as I was in his; for he could say—*my dear—very pretty—and I love you*: and I, in return, could answer, *Comment vous, portez vous—fort bien, je vous remercie—si donc, &c.*

As well as I could judge, he staid with me about an hour, when, ringing a bell, the woman who had conducted me into the chamber, brought a tureen of soup, and having arranged the necessary apparatus for my taking it, my gentleman bid me *manger*, and retired. Indeed, I found

I 5 myself

myself rather disposed to *manger*, for the soup smelled well, and tasted much better. My attendant then presented me with a glass of delicious wine, and gave me to understand, that the time of my departure was come. She accordingly led me by the hand down the stair-case, and consigned me to my original conductor, who conveyed me back to my lodgings in the same manner he had brought me from them. Not a word passed between us either going or coming, till he took leave of me at my own door, when he recommended me not to open my lips to any person whatever concerning what I had seen or done. This injunction I implicitly obeyed; and even *Nanette*, whose curiosity was urgent upon the occasion, was not made a confidante

of this business; I told her it was nothing more than a common amour, not worth the trouble that had been taken, and she made no farther enquiries about it.

I certainly formed conjectures about this mysterious transaction in my own mind, but I had no clue to unravel the affair, nor can I now add a single article to the description I have already given. The night was dark, and I saw nothing sufficiently distinct to possess any image, but such as might suggest itself to the fancy of any one who may read these pages. In passing from the house, on my return to the carriage, we returned as we had come through a garden, where I saw nothing but the trees that seemed to cover us, and I heard nothing but the noise of fountains, and

the beating of a drum at a great distance. Some of my friends, when I related this story in *England*, used to accuse me of a deviation from truth; and *Walsingham* always called it Miss *Sheldon's* dream:—if that were the case, I should be glad to repeat such dreams frequently, as it certainly left an hundred solid Louis d'ors upon my pillow.

After some days I prepared in good earnest to quit *Paris*; but still the Count was urgent almost to distraction for my stay; and the Countess, who little suspected her husband's passion, was extremely desirous that I should remain with them: finding, however, that I was determined to bid them adieu, they made me several very elegant presents, and accompanied

accompanied me on my way as far as *Saint Denis*, where I took leave of these freindly and amiable people, who both of them shed tears as they gave me their last embrace.

I now continued my route without interruption, till I arrived at *Abbeville*, when, who should I see at the public table there but Mr. *Caijou*, and he prevailed upon me to take him in my chaise as far as *Boulogne*. On my arrival within a league of *Calais*, I stopped at a *Château* to deliver a letter from the Count and Countess of B——, whose kindness extended beyond their own immediate circle; for I was received by their friends here with as much kindness as I had ever been treated by them. This short visit saved me
the

the expence of being at *Calais* till the packet failed ; for my new acquaintances sent a servant to take a place for me in it, and attended me to my embarkation in their own carriage.

CHAP.

C H A P. XLIX.

Am once more safe landed in England, accompanied by Mr. Caijou, who still pestered me.—Quarrel on the Road to Canterbury,—quit the Chaise and walk into that Town in all my French Finery.—Arrival in London, Enter into all my former Connections, and lead the same Life of dissipation.

AT length, after a tedious passage, I found myself once more in Old *England*; and my joy at that circumstance could be only equalled by my impatience to get to *London*. I therefore, immediately ordered a chaise for *Canterbury*, and was just getting

getting into it, when my evil genius Mr. *Caijou* again made his appearance, and entreated so earnestly to accompany me, that I at length consented to grant his request; but we were neither of us disposed to be in a very good humour, and when we were arrived within two miles of the first stage, such a violent quarrel was fomented between us, that I quitted the chaise and walked by myself the rest of the way to *Canterbury*, where I arrived bedecked with *French* finery, and bespattered with *English* dirt.—The Countess of *Hertford* had come over in the same packet, which brought my personage to *England*,—and one of her servants, who was driving a phaeton upon the road, offered to give me a lift, as he called it.—But I was in an obstinate mood,

mood, and arrived at the inn in such a state, and such a figure, as would have justified the people refusing me any kind of admittance; nor, perhaps, should I have gained it at all, if the chaise with my baggage, which had arrived before me, had not announced my possessing something more than I had on my back. I was absolutely draggled to my knees, my fine *French* slippers had lost both their heels,—and I was otherwise in such a condition as any one might imagine I must be after a walk of two miles in roads covered with mire.

The first thing I did on my arrival was to send for a shoe-maker, and when he came, he could hardly receive my orders for staring at me:

Indeed,

Indeed, I might have told him that I was a true *White-chapel* bird-catcher, with two slippers and one heel, but I was too fatigued as well as mortified to indulge any sallies of humour. I was, however, soon equipped with some comfortable travelling necessities, and as my cash was diminishing very fast, I took a place in the stage-coach for *London*, and arrived safe at an inn in *Charing-cross*. Mr. *Caijou*, who did not seem disposed to quit me, came in the same coach, but I was now free from all apprehensions of him, and was determined to let him know my resolutions concerning our future acquaintance; I therefore, ordered my baggage to remain at the inn, 'till I sent for it, —and told the gentleman that we must now separate for ever, and as
 he

he had threatened me with a strong house at *Paris*, I would take care he should have one at *London*, if he troubled me any farther.—This little menace had the desired effect, for he immediately went away, and I saw him no more.

I now hurried away to my mantua-maker's, who seemed as much astonished at my foreign appearance, as the *Canterbury* shoe-maker. After the first salutations, she told me that there had been a thousand reports about my going abroad, and as many gentlemen, she believed, had been enquiring after me. All this I thought looked well, and I immediately ordered her to make me up some *English* cloaths with all possible expedition. I stayed, therefore,
at

at her house 'till my wardrobe was arranged, and then took a lodging in *King-street St. James's*. I wrote to all my friends, announcing my return from the *Continent*, and they were not backward to come and welcome my arrival, so that I soon found myself in the midst of all my former pleasures.

Mr. *Walsingham* having heard of my being in *England*, applied to the mantua-maker to know where I was, and offered her five guineas to bring him to me. As I had already desired her in case he should be coming to make enquiries, not to let him know any thing about me,—she was obliged to employ a stratagem in order to get me to her house, when he was there, and thus secure the reward which

which was to pay her for her trouble. She accordingly came to me with a fabricated story of a lady who was to be with her that day at two o'clock, with such bargains of silks, as never were heard of or seen before. This was a certain temptation for me, and I did not fail to be there at the appointed hour; when as I was waiting for the merchantize, I heard a noise in a closet belonging to the room where the mistress of it used to keep her pans and kettles, and just as I was going to see what was the matter, the door opened and forth issued Mr. *Walsingham*, as black as any kettle in the place. "Your servant *Mademoiselle*," said he,—“you are welcome from *France*;" and immediately began to jabber *French* as if I understood the language: but he might

might as well have spoken *Arabic*, and he found himself under the necessity of returning to his vulgar tongue.

He was really such a figure, that if I had not been both astonished and alarmed, there was wherewithall in his appearance to have made me laugh for an hour. But he gave my pleasantries no encouragement, and began, as usual, to deliver a serious lecture on prudence, which he concluded with the accustomed conclusion of proposing an entire fidelity to him. Though I was not in one of my saucy humours, I had resolution enough for once to say him nay ;— and to propose in my turn that he should visit me in common with the rest of the town, but with this preference,—that whenever he would
name

name the day on which he proposed to come,—that such day should be reserved for him alone.—He was not quite pleased with my mode of arrangement, and promising to call upon me, in order to talk further on the subject, he took his leave, totally forgetful of his smutty figure, and I could not resist the joke of letting the noble Captain walk forth with all the appearance of having amused himself that morning with a game at chimney sweeping.

The next day I received a visit from Lord *Lyttleton*, who continued to be frequent in his attentions to me. He was generous in his presents, and mentioned occasionally a wish to keep me entirely to himself. In short, he really appeared to be fond of me, gave my foot boy a very elegant livery, and proposed at length
that

that I should go and live with him at his house.—But to this proposition I would by no means consent, as he had a very amiable woman, a Miss *Harward*, who then lived with his Lordship. In short, I got too much money by seeing a variety of friends, to attach myself to the uncertain protection of anyone. Indeed, if I had pursued the œconomical plans of some of my female acquaintance, I should soon have acquired the independence which they possessed.

There was a Mrs. *Sinclair*, who was supported by Sir *Robert Deane*, and was one of this prudent class.—She was worth at least seven thousand pounds, besides a great quantity of diamonds, and yet this woman, on an express invitation to dinner, in order

order to accompany her to the *Opera*, produced nothing in the world for my entertainment but a couple of *Herrings*. The circumstance was so ridiculous that I could not be serious about it ;—so after rallying her upon the overloaded table, I rang the bell to beg the cook would send me something to eat,—when she returned for answer that there was nothing in the house to eat, but the fish upon the table, and that the fire in the kitchen grate might be all put into a tinder-box. I therefore ordered a coach, and went home, where, if I had neither wealth nor diamonds, I was sure of having at least a plentiful meal.

My friend Mrs. *Blacquiere* was also of the same bone-picking order. She

was supported in a very elegant style indeed, by a Nabob just come from the *East-Indies*, with all the pride, superciliousness, ignorance and riches, so frequently found in persons who have risen from low stations to great fortune.

This lady was not content with the lavish kindness of her Oriental friend, as she was continually scheming how she should levy contributions on any of her own, or his acquaintance, who might accidentally visit her.

I remember, as I was sitting with her one morning, when she expected Lord *Clive*, she made out a *Milliner's* bill for twenty pounds, and laid it upon the table. His Lordship soon
after

after arrived ; and while we were chatting, he took up the bill, and amused himself with reading the articles. “ Ah !” said Mrs. *Blacquiere*, “ the poor milliner called for payment of this bill this morning, but as I had not the money, she was obliged to go away without it.” “ Is it possible,” asked his Lordship, “ that a Nabob’s mistress can want twenty pounds ?”—“ It is even so,” replied she—and worse than that.” Whereupon, after rallying her for some time, he took a bank bill out of his pocket book, and putting it upon the end of his cane, presented it to her.—Thus did she add to her heaps ; and whenever her Nabob dined out, she pursued the saving art of ordering no dinner at all, and giving that to her

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purse,

purse, which was intended for her table.

I then, it is true, despised this saving knowledge, and the arts which accompanied it; but I have since lamented, again and again, that I had not possessed some share of it.—Many a scene of distress that I have since experienced would have been unknown; and the present moment would not have been embittered with the apprehensions that the next may be without support, or obliged to depend for it on that mode of life, of which I ought long ago to have taken my farewell.

C H A P. XLIV.

Some curious Anecdotes of Mrs. Blaquiere and Mr. Cooper, her East India Nabob—Form a new Connection with the Reverend Mr. Welmore, an American Gentleman, who supported me in great Splendour, and, on his quitting England, consign my Person to a Mr. Dalby—Am persuaded by Mr. Walsingham to leave Mr. Dalby, and live retired with him—Take a House at Lambeth.

IF my memory does not deceive me, Mrs. *Blacquiere's* Nabob was a Mr. *Cooper*; and though there was nothing in his manner, conversation, and appearance that is worth the ink, which I waste in writing his name, an accidental circumstance,

of a singular description, and which I cannot pass over without describing, will give him a *niche* in this work, which all his wealth would not otherwise have purchased for him.

It was one night, when the Nabob was not expected home, that Mrs. *Blacquiere* desired me to sleep with her, which I accordingly did : However, in the middle of the night, or rather very early in the morning, Mr. *Cooper* came home, and, being informed that I was in bed with Mrs. *Blacquiere*, he swore he would join the party. I was fast asleep when he entered the chamber ; but was awakened by my friend, who desired me to get up and go into another bed, for that the Nabob had come home, and was undressing himself to
come

come into that where we were. I bid her be at rest, for I neither would change my bed, nor suffer him to partake of ours; and I kept my word—for, on his making an attempt to approach our couch, I knocked his little chamber candlestick out of his hand, and seizing at the same moment a pistol tinder-box, which was on the night-table, snapped it immediately in his face. The Nabob, who thought in reality that it was a pistol, was so frightened as to tumble over a chair first, and alarm the house afterwards.—As, for my part, I had thrown myself upon the bed in such a violent fit of laughter, that I shook the room; and when, on the lights being brought, Mrs. *Blacquiere* found no harm had happened to Mr. *Cooper*, she began to pay some

attention to me ; and fancying that, from the agitation wherein I appeared, I was in strong hyſterics, ſhe had emptied a bottle of water upon me before I knew what ſhe was about. But my fit took a very unexpected turn ; for, in endeavouring to return her a compliment of a very different kind, I miſtook my aim, and emptied the veſſel I had ſeized full in the face of the aſtoniſhed Nabob.—A new alarm was now given, other beds were obliged to be prepared ; and after the Nabob had ſhifted himſelf, he and his lady thought proper to ſhift their quarters, and left me to ſome very comfortable ſlumbers. In the morning, however, we all met at breakfaſt, and the adventure of the preceding night was talked over with that good humour, which, whatever people

ple may feel, it is prudent at least to appear to possess on such occasions.

A few nights after this curious event, I went to a masquerade at the *Opera-House*, where I made acquaintance with Mr. *Robert Loveless*, and the Reverend Mr. *Welmor*e, a gentleman from *America*, whom I afterwards found to be of a very generous disposition, and blessed with a happy accompaniment of a weighty purse. These gentlemen took me to Mr. *Pratt's*, in *Covent-Garden*, and the next day accompanied me home to my lodgings, where they continued to visit me : In short, I received so much money from my new visitors, that I set up my carriage, and was seen in every part of the town, and at all the public places with these gentlemen, 'till Mr. *Welmor*e returned to *America*.

He was not gone, however, many days before Mr. *Charles Dalby* came to town, and soon found me out. He had formerly been an occasional friend of mine, and was now likely to be more so ; for he was determined, he said, to live with me, and had got a thousand pounds in his pocket : —Indeed, he had just been at Mr. *Child's* for the money ; and, as he was not quite in his sober senses, the Clerks of the *Bank* had made an excuse not to pay such a sum to him, 'till they had consulted one of their masters.

As there were the means, it would have been my fault if we had not lived comfortably together, which we, in reality, did for some time. —

Mr.

Mr. *Dalby*, however, did not quite approve of the coach ; but he had no objection to ride in it—no more had I. And one morning, as I was passing through *Grosvenor-Square*, in order to pay a visit to Miss *Carr*, in *Park-street*, whom should I meet but Mr. *Walsingham*, nor did he hesitate to stop the coach ; and having got into it, did he hesitate to abuse it, and its mistress, and all who had any concern in it : In short, he said so much about my folly and its consequences, and promised so vehemently to support me himself, if I would take a small house and live retired, that I engaged to comply with his recommendation the moment I was disengaged from my present connection.

At length Mr. *Dalby's* thousand pounds were almost exhausted ; and, as he had occasion to go down into *Hertfordshire* for sometime, I took that opportunity of giving up my coach, quitting my town lodgings, and taking a small house of about eighteen pounds a year, in the neighbourhood of *Lambeth*.

This little place I furnished in a very neat manner ; and the moment I was settled, I sent to Mr. *Walsingham*, to inform him that his reiterated suggestions were at length realized, and that he could not be too early in coming to see the fruits of them. The gentleman accordingly came ; and now that I had done every thing which I thought would please him,

him, he pretended still to be dissatisfied. The neighbourhood, he said, was vulgar ; and, though he had for many years been persuading me to live in a nutshell, he now thought my house was of too small dimensions : Indeed, he never came to see me but he had some new slur to throw upon a situation which he had himself occasioned ; and, therefore, I told him, with my usual freedom, that I fancied he only wanted an excuse not to fulfil his engagement with me ; and, if that were the case, he and his engagement might troop away together.

This breeze, it is most certain, carried him off ; but I did not stand in need of visitors, for, small as my
habi-

habitation was, I had plenty of them ; and went as much to public places as when I lived in the more immediate vicinity of them all.

C H A P. XLVII.

Receive a very unexpected Letter from Count de B——, who had left France in consequence of a Duel—Propose to live with me—Accept him—He continues with me until he is recalled home, his Antagonist having recovered—Wishes me to accompany him, but decline it.

A New, or rather an old unexpected acquaintance, in a new capacity, now appeared upon the scene. I one morning received a letter, written in French ; and, carrying it for interpretation to my friend, *Madame Septerville*, it appeared to be from Count B——,

B——, whom I have already mentioned with so much regard, for his and his lady's friendship while I was in *Paris*. In this letter he informed me that the Countess was dead; in consequence of which event, he was come to pass some time in *England*, and that he wished extremely to see me at his lodgings in *Bond-Street*.

As I have already mentioned my great partiality for this amiable nobleman, and the circumstances that controuled my affection, it will not now be considered as a matter of surprise that I should take the most immediate opportunity of paying my devoirs to him. I, therefore, ordered a coach, and went without delay to answer the *billet-doux* in person, and was received with all the warmth
which

which I had reason to expect from a person who had always professed such a devoted attachment to me.— I was, however, rather mortified with the appearance of a lady in the drawing-room, who was big with child, and assumed, as far as I could judge, the character of mistress of the house. But the Count's interpreter soon explained the matter to me; and I was given to understand that she was a confidential servant belonging to Monsieur de B——, who had been very useful in assisting him to get his effects from *France*, as he had been obliged to leave that country in consequence of a duel he had fought, and the uncertain state of his antagonist's life; and that, if the gentleman should die, the Count would never be able to return to *France*.

The

The next day he dined with me at *Lambeth*, and the day following I called to take coffee with him; when the Count and his maid, who was called *Marie*, were examining his plate, and counting over his louis d'ors, to a very great amount. This heap of money, in spite of my violent attachment to my French lover, attracted a very anxious attention on my part: Indeed, *Marie* seemed to have the same dispositions; for, sometime afterwards, on a pretence of being jealous of me, she took her leave of her master, and contrived to accommodate herself with some of his plate, and a few of his louis d'ors, to bear the expences of her journey, wherever it might be.

The

The Count, however, saw *Marie* no more, and, giving up his lodging, he came to live entirely with me; and, as my woman spoke *French*, he discharged his man servant, and was happy to live with me in that habitation which had given Mr. *Walsingham*'s pride so much offence: Indeed, the latter gentleman happened once to call upon me when the Count was with me, and had a long conversation with him. Nor did this circumstance flatter my vanity a little, especially when, on going away, he told me that my foreigner, whether a Count or a Marquis, was certainly a man of fashion—not, but I knew him to be so, from former experience; and my present situation enabled me to determine that he was not only of high distinction but of a most
gene-

generous nature ;—he denied me nothing he thought would please me,—and I never was so well pleased as when I was shewing him off at any public place, and myself along with him ; it may, therefore, be supposed that we were constant attendants on every fashionable diversion.

Thus the Count and I passed some time together in great comfort,—but this was not destined to last ; for he received letters from *France*, that the gentleman with whom he had fought was perfectly recovered, and that the King had recalled him home.

I was very unhappy at this circumstance, and the Count was very desirous that I should accompany him to the Continent, and offered to settle-

tle three hundred pounds a-year upon me ; but as I understood he was engaged to marry the lady about whom he had fought the duel, and having had some little experience of his country, I was determined to remain on this side of the Straits of *Calais*. I accompanied him, however, as far as *Dover*, where he completed his past generosity by a very handsome proof of his regard, and we took leave of each other with every appearance of mutual regret.

C H A P. XLVIII.

Remove from Lambeth to Argyle-street—Live wholly with Mr. Walsingham—Lady Pelham and Lady Fitzroy think me an improper Neighbour, and endeavour to get me removed—An alarming Affray with three officers, who were going to serve me with an Execution, &c. &c.

ON my return to *Lambeth*, I became very melancholy, and was extremely at a loss in what manner to shape my course. Calling, however, accidentally on Mrs. *Danbrook*, the milliner in *Duke-street, St. James's*, whom I had not seen for some time,

she

she immediately reprobated my smothering myself, as she called it, in such a dismal place as *Lambeth*, and recommended me, without delay, to take a lodging in her quarter of the town. In short, she said so much on the subject, and my spirits were so disconcerted by the departure of the Count, that the very next day I sent for an upholsterer, to whom I sold my goods, and immediately changed the air of *Lambeth* for that of *Argyle-street*.

It was very fortunate for me, that at this time I was well furnished with clothes, and rather proud in purse; for the Count had been so long with me, that I had dropped all my old friends, and had, at this time, the miserable business of seeking for
new

new ones. There was one old one indeed, to whom I thought proper to apply, and that was Mr. *Walsingham*, who immediately came to me, and seemed so extremely pleased with my situation, that he spoke to the master of the house himself, and, after explaining certain circumstances, desired that no man whatever but him might be permitted to go into my apartment.

Here I lived in absolute retirement, and entire fidelity to Mr. *Walsingham* for a considerable time ; when having, in one of my very rare perambulations, ordered a pair of bracelets, I desired the jeweller to bring them home and receive his money, which he accordingly did,—but had no sooner ascended to my drawing-room,

than the master of the house, in obedience to Mr. *Walsingham's* orders, flew up after him, and, taking him by the collar, insisted on his immediately quitting the room and the house. At first I thought proper to explain the business to my landlord, not having the least doubt, when he was acquainted with it, that he would no longer persist in his outrageous conduct; but his violence was not to be quelled by my information and entreaties; so that at last being worked up into a little wrath of my own, I seized a sword of Mr. *Sweedland's*, which hung up in the room, drew it manfully out of the scabbard, and drove my boisterous landlord into the corner of the room, where he grew quiet as a lamb, and, on his bended knees, begged that life which, so

violent was my passion, that, if it had not been for the silversmith, I should not have spared him. I still, however, kept the point of my sword at his breast, and should have kept him in this state of apprehension some time longer, if his fears had not found their way from him in a manner so ridiculous, as at once to disarm my rage, and with an odour that threatened pestilence to the apartment. We suffered, therefore, the poor officious devil to waddle away in his own foetid atmosphere, and leave the silversmith and myself to finish the scene with those bursts of laughter which it might be naturally supposed to excite.

Notwithstanding this little awkward history, I continued in my lodging,

lodging; yet, in spite of his woeful experience, the landlord still kept a very watchful eye over me, so that no one could find access to me but Mr. *Walsingham*. Being thus debarred from a variety of company, I was determined to amuse myself in my apartments by myself as well as I could; and as I always kept my windows open, and was continually playing some kind of antics or other, I began to give offence to some of my supercilious neighbours, and complaints proceeded from several of them on my account. Among the rest, Lady *Fitzroy* thought proper to think me very improper to reside in her neighbourhood, because her husband, Mr. *Jefferies*, used sometimes, as he passed by when I was at the window, to kiss his hand to me.

Lady *Pelham* also thought it indecent for me to keep my windows open ; but I sent her word that *air was free*, and that when it was taxed, I hoped to be able to pay for it as well as her Ladyship. Nor was my landlord, though for his own sake, less sturdy than myself ; for he positively refused to give me warning, in spite of all the remonstrances of his great neighbours ; and assured them, when they called upon him on my account, that while my rent was paid as punctually as it had always been, he should be glad to keep me as long as I chose to stay.

But still this fellow was vigilance itself. He possessed all the genius of a spy—and was qualified to have been in the first employment of the
French

French police. If I received a message, he was sure to question the messenger—and if I just sent my servant on an errand, he was sure to follow her himself, or order some one to do it. If I went out in a coach, he never hesitated to get behind it—and this was the only situation in which I could exercise my revenge for his impertinence; for whenever I found he had taken post as footman, I never failed to exercise my authority over the coachman, by making him drive into every strange part and corner of the town. I have frequently gone to *Whitechapel*, *Rag-Fair*, and the neighbourhood, for no other purpose but to puzzle his brain, and to shake his bones. More than half a dozen times have I paid half a guinea for an evening's ride, in order

to weary my attendant of his pursuits; but he was inflexible, and continued to torment me to the last.

Lord *Ancram*, now the Marquis of *Lothian*, and another nobleman, calling upon me one evening, my landlord presented himself at the door, as usual, to say I was not at home, when I threw open one of the windows, and assured my visitors of the contrary: but he still persisted to oppose their going up stairs till coming down, I seized him by the collar, and boxed his ears for some minutes, to the no small amusement of my friends; who, after enjoying this unexpected scene, passed a merry hour or two with me, without any farther interruption.

A few

A few days after this little altercation some gentlemen appeared at the door, of another description. They were no less than three officers belonging to the *Court of Conscience*, who, with the plaintiff at their head, declared that they had an execution against the lady in the first floor.— And now that it would have been kind in my landlord to have kept fast his door and watched his staircase, he contrived to do neither one or the other; and I had no other refuge left but my bedchamber, in which, having first possessed myself of Mr *Sweedland's* sword, I most manfully locked myself. But the myrmidon's, on finding me escaped from the drawing-room, began to force open the door of the bed-chamber, when my obliging landlord, with

with his friendly officiousness, made his appearance, and offered to accommodate these wretches, with a turn screw, that they might take off the lock, and enter the chamber where I was without injuring the door.—This being effected, they came rushing in, but I was resolute, and kept them off with my extended sword; and being convinced from the conversation which I had overheard, that they had mistaken me for some other person, I was determined to change my defensive posture for offensive operations;—so breaking the sword in two across my lap, I approached them with a most violent spirit of attack, and with the part I held in my hand began to hack and hew their heads in such a manner, that the fellows ran streaming

streaming with blood, to the drawing room windows, threw them up, and cried out murder in such a manner as alarmed the neighbourhood, and earnestly begged for assistance.— In the mean time, the creditor, who was a Mr. *Batty*, discovering that I was not the person they were in search of, fell upon his knees and began to supplicate me for pardon in the most abject manner, and offered me any conditions I would name, to pass over the insult I had received. While he was in this situation, his executioners were preparing to steal down stairs, and get away; but I was rather too nimble for their design; and passing before them I placed my back against the street door, and kept them at bay, 'till the constable arrived, who took Mr. *Batty*

Batty and his cohort into Custody, and conveyed them safely to the *watch-house*, where they remained 'till the next morning, when they were carried before a magistrate, and gave bail for their appearance.—Mr. *Batty*, however, made his peace with me, for happening one morning to find a suit of linnen on my table worth at least thirty guineas, the circumstance put me at once into such good humour, that I promised to think no more of my intended prosecution.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.



